



"Hermanos Del Mismo Oficio" Photo and art by S. Jorge Zepeda See "Blood of Kings" story on Page 8

## SPRINT FIRES 235 LATINO WORKERS

### SUDDEN SHUTDOWN OF LA CONEXION FAMILIAR HITS MISSION HARDEST

by Stet Holbrook

Two hundred and thirty five telemarketing employees of a San Francisco-based Sprint subsidiary were fired last month after the company, La Conexion Familiar, was determined a money-loser. The firings came just one week before the workers were scheduled to vote on forming a union. The timing of the firings have thus raised questions about the motivation and legality of the company's actions.

La Conexion familiar, and independent telemarketing company that sold Spanish phone services to a Latino clientele, was purchased by Sprint in 1992. Reportedly, the small company could not compete with larger companies and ultimately became unprofitable. Patricia Perez, an public relations representative for Sprint, said company officials did all they could to turn the failing company around. Sprint unsuccessfully tried to sell the company and in the end decided to shut it down. the displaced workers received two months of wages and a job center was set up to help them find work.

Perez said Sprint can prove the company was losing money but is unwilling to make such information public "because of the competitive nature of the industry." In spite of Sprint's insistence to the contrary, many workers and union officials are convinced the axe fell because unionization was imminent.

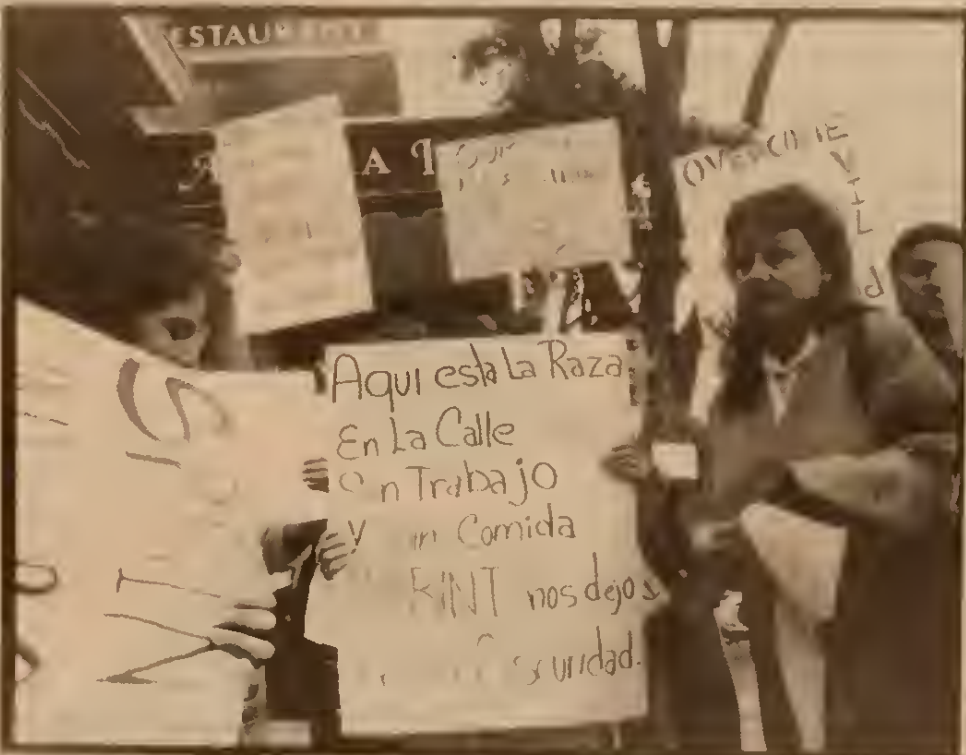
Employee support for unionization was high. Virginia Rodriguez Jones, a union coordinator from the Communications Workers of America who was organizing the workers, reported that seventy percent of them were in favor of unionizing. Before the firings, employees had no grievance procedure or any means of challenging management. Unionization would have given employees "a voice," Jones said.

Nelly Choy, one of the fired employees, stated that relations between workers and employers were extremely poor. "They

treated us like animals," she said. Choy said employees suffered "many injustices" such as not being allowed to use the bathroom when they wanted. She is convinced the company fired her and her co-workers because of their efforts to unionize and rejects company-claims

an ongoing effort to intimidate the workers," she stated.

One example given involved an unsigned memo without company letterhead that was distributed in the company cafeteria. The memo said in effect that when unions come



Fired Sprint workers demonstrate against what they see as the company's illegal actions. The sign in Spanish reads: "Here is La Raza in the street without work and without food. Sprint left us in this darkness." Photo by Najib Joe Hakim.

that La Conexion Familiar had become unprofitable. "This is a lie," she stated. Despite her dissatisfaction with the job, she said she would go back to work for the company if she could.

For their part, Jones explained, officials from La Conexion Familiar were openly against the formation of a union. "They had

into a company they create problems and force companies to move away. The memo seemed to say if the telemarketers unionized, their jobs would be in jeopardy. The company also held meetings in which employees were told that unionization was a bad idea.

In the wake of the controversy surrounding the closure of La Conexion Familiar, the

Board of Supervisors and the National Labor Relations Board are investigating claims that the company's actions were against the law; firing employees because they want to unionize is illegal. The Supervisor Susan Leal has scheduled hold hearings on the firings for early this month. The NLRB's investigation has already begun and is expected to last several weeks.

"The big question is the real reason behind the firings," explained Ana Cortez, an aide to Susan Leal. This will be the primary purpose of the hearings. Cortez also said that Sprint has shut down operations in other areas when unionization was imminent. If the firm is found to have acted illegally, Cortez said the Board may look into suspending tax credits and various city funds the company now receives and, she added, Sprint will "have one less friend on the Board of supervisors."

Job prospects are bleak for the now unemployed telemarketers, the overwhelming majority of whom are female Mission District residents. Finding employment is difficult in San Francisco and is made even more difficult given that most of the workers speak little or no English.

Rick Sorro, who works for the non-profit employment agency Mission Hiring Hall, said the workers telemarketing skills may be transferable to other occupations, perhaps in other cities. Sorro expects the issue to be resolved in a labor court. With a touch of irony, he recalled an event twenty years ago at the Esprit company. Workers at the clothing company were fired for their efforts to form a union. Only after more than five years of legal proceedings, was Esprit found to have violated labor laws.

The state AFL-CIO has passed a resolution in which it "strongly condemns Sprint's brutal shutdown of Sprint/La Conexion Familiar solely to prevent its workers from electing to join the Communications Workers of America."



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## GUEST OPINIONS

## NO MORE FREE RIDES

by Joy LaValley and Robert Lehman,  
San Franciscans for Fiscal Fairness

It's summer in San Francisco, and Budget Crisis Season. Once again, the debate rages over which services and programs will be cut this year. San Francisco General, neighborhood health services, park and recreation facilities, mental health and drug rehab programs, to name a few, have all come under the gun this year.

But this summer, members of senior, neighborhood, labor and environmental organizations have come up with a better alternative: a Downtown Transit Assessment District. Volunteers have been busy gathering more than 15,000 signatures to put this measure on the ballot in November.

Here's how it works: Downtown commercial property owners receive real economic benefits, such as premium rent levels and less space needed for parking, because of a level of MUNI service three to seventeen times higher than what the neighborhoods get. They get more lines running there and extra rush hour vehicles. Because of this, a Downtown Transit Assessment District can be set up to recover a portion of those economic benefits to help fund downtown's extra MUNI service. This is much more fair than the current subsidy to MUNI from neighborhood taxpayers, or raising fares again.

The Assessment District, according to estimates by the Board of Supervisors' budget analyst Harvey Rose, could generate up to \$54 million per year to fund MUNI services. This would make it possible to hold down or reduce MUNI fares, and improve service. It would also free up City money, which currently goes to pay for MUNI's operating deficit, to restore important services now being cut.

The idea of an Assessment District is nothing new. In 1914 most of the southwestern portion of the City, along with a portion of

Twin Peaks, was assessed for the cost of constructing a transit rail tunnel under Twin Peaks. The assessment was for about four million dollars, which covered 95% of the cost of acquiring land and building a tunnel more than two miles long in two and a half years.

In 1981, hit by Prop 13 revenue cuts, San Francisco began the process of creating a Downtown Transit Assessment District. Politicians backtracked and eventually approved a one-time-only "impact fee" on new office construction. This compromise accepted the premise that, like the Twin Peaks tunnel in 1914, those who directly benefit from the service should contribute toward the cost. However, all the owners of existing office property (including major political donors) were let off the hook!

Now, we have another chance to restore some fairness, and keep fares affordable.

The initiative by San Franciscans for Fiscal Fairness would require that the original 1981 Downtown Transit District studies be updated. These studies determine how much downtown commercial property owners benefit financially from extra MUNI service, and how much this extra service contributes to MUNI's operating deficit. From this, an assessment is determined. After this, the Board of Supervisors holds public hearings. The Supervisors must then implement the assessment district.

The assessment would be charged to office property owners per square foot of property owned, exempting residential, ground-floor and below-ground-level space. We estimate it would be about \$.90 (less than one MUNI fare) per square foot per year.

Quality, affordable public transit is in everyone's best interest. We need a fair way to fund it. The owners of downtown office buildings have been getting a free ride at the expense of neighborhood residents and businesses. A Downtown Transit Assessment District is long overdue.

## NO MORE FIEFDOMS

by Supervisor Angela Alloto

On Friday, July 8, I sat at home with my family listening to an appalling television report by Glenn Martin of the San Francisco Chronicle. Mr. Martin was reporting on an outrageous tragedy in a city which has committed millions of dollars to provide for its children. According to a series he researched and wrote for the Chronicle, San Francisco has approximately 2,000-3,000 children, whose average age is twelve, living homeless on our city streets. Most of these kids, Mr. Martin went on to assert, are involved in prostitution and drugs. Of those the Department of Public Health or the Police Department have been able to screen, 72% tested positive for HIV infection.

Belva Davis, who was moderator of the program, asked the obvious question: didn't San Francisco voters pass a Proposition allocating money to address the needs of the our city's children?

Where is that money now?

I find it unbearable to go down Polk Street these days because of the sight of so many homeless kids. We must do something about this.

Members of the CBO (Community-Based Organization) Partnership have met with my staff and me regarding the Children's Fund money allocated from the Hotel Tax via Proposition J. As the original sponsor of the Children's Fund proposal, this is an issue which has always been a priority for me. As a single parent myself, I know firsthand the importance of quality care, quality education, and quality recreational opportunities for our children, youth and families.

What has become clear to me from these discussions is that the original intent of the voters in passing Proposition J may have been lost in the creation of a bureaucratic fiefdom to allocate the actual money. This led me to ask more questions: Are there more children in San Francisco receiving daycare, after school care, recreation programs, tutorials,

and so on, than there were four years ago? Are these children receiving better service? If not, why not?

I know that every San Franciscan is concerned about where our tax dollars go. I can't ride MUNI, walk down a street, go to San Francisco General, or go anywhere in San Francisco without hearing our city crying out for a return to good management. City services have been in decline far too long.

That is why I am proposing that the Board of Supervisors call for the formation of a Citizens' Oversight Committee to review, audit and hold accountable all private enterprises and community-based organizations which receive our tax dollars. This Citizens' Oversight Committee would not be just a rubberstamp group of the usual suspects. There would be no board members from the agencies receiving city money, no relatives of directors and staff members. This time there must be real accountability. We will not tolerate the foxes minding the chicken coop.

We need to know what those agencies responsible for our city's youth are doing to meet the needs of the children on San Francisco's streets.

Since we take money from the Hotel Tax for our Children's Fund, I say we put members of the hospitality industry on this Committee. I say we put parents from our neighborhoods on the Committee, and I say we put members of independent accounting firms there. Because government and neighbors must work as partners, I am also calling for members of the Police Department and the Department of Public Health to sit on the Committee. I believe that this comprises a representative cross-section of the parties most qualified to represent the interests of our neighborhoods and our families. So I invite each of you to join me in seeing that this challenge is met and that no new series appear in our newspapers documenting the irresponsible neglect of our future. Working together, we can make change.



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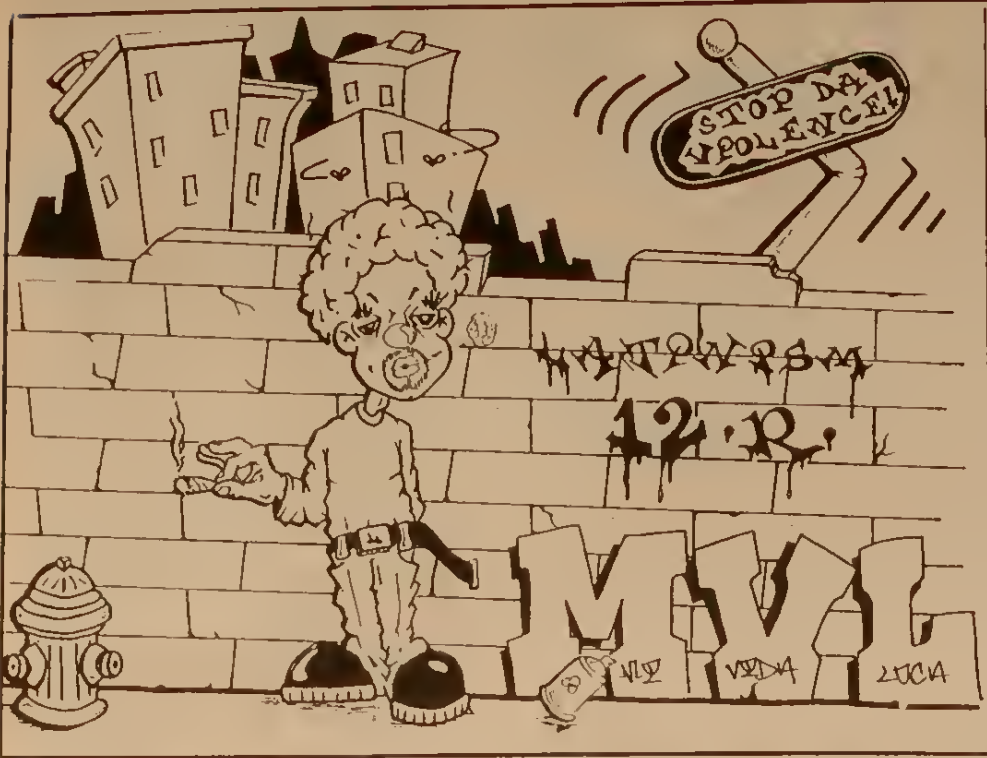


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# WHO'S THE SELLOUT?



by Roberto Eligio Alfaro

I was rolling in my homie's bucket the other day and I couldn't help but to see some little young bucks wearing red hats, red shoes, red pants, and red jackets, they looked like red Christmas ornaments. My friend said nothing until I pointed it out to him and he said, "Damn, youngsters already into la vida loca! When will the madness end?" It was funny the way he said it but thinking about it now it's not a joke. All kinds of people from all walks of life and all ages are becoming gangsters or at least perpin' that they know what's up. I'm sick of seeing little vatos wasting their lives away because they hate their parents or they're bored. That isn't an excuse to forget your roots and waste your life on wasting some else's.

But I can't stop homies from killing themselves with the drink and weed. I always feel

bad when I see carnales doing lines or a homegirl thinner than my broomstick on doorsteps smokin' the pipe. What can I say? What can I do? Shit. Nothing that I said or did could help and that's why I guess I started writing because maybe someone would listen knowing Aztlan could be united and we would not beat each other down like two bickering brothers fighting for their mother's love. I didn't know how to express myself to the gente without being rejected or laughed at because I'm the outsider.

I'm the homeboy that listened to his mother and is getting an education. Sometimes people call me sellout because I use big words and I read a lot. Should I care about people that don't give a fuck even if they are my gente? I thought about that for a long time and then an image came to me: a young vato coming from El Salvador not having any friends, then becoming corrupted by a gang

and ending up in jail for years because of his so-called friends. I was crazy to even think I would sell out for myself and make my dead presidents. Money is nothing but paper. My Raza and its problems are what is real. I was even helping the Five-O by serving the community, but I found out no respect is given to homeboys by the cops in the barrio. All I want now is to roll up Mission without fools lookin' hard at you. Instead they'd roll up and roll down their windows and say, "Orale homes nice bucket!" and roll up their window and drive off. But that's a dream just like Aztlan is.

I was reading somewhere I don't remember exactly what it was but I do remember it was a book that spoke about the Aztecs and how they used to plant gardens outside their doorsteps so people wouldn't starve and nobody ever stole nothing from anyone and all that good onda. I was hella impressed about the days in Tenochtitlan. Now most of Califas is poverty stricken, filled with violence, gang members, and graffiti. The Aztec people have become Aztec bums, addicts, drug dealers, and gangsters. Don't get mad because its the truth and don't be proud because it isn't anything to be proud of.

Sometimes being Latino makes me ashamed. I'll tell you why: because vatos are so ignorant that they fight each other for worthless causes like colors. Man, people are really out there to do us in as a Raza, and homies are fighting each other. You know what those same people are probably laughing at us right now because we're doing ourselves in. I remember when Mission was full of only Latinos, now they've changed it to Multi-Cultural. Damn, we can't even stay in our own barrios because we're afraid to or we're too ignorant to improve our desolate dirty streets. Which one is it? I think both. If I offended anyone, good, that's what I want to do because you deserve to hear what has become of the great nation within a nation of Aztlan.

Aztlan is a dream but a distant one. People probably don't even know what Aztlan is and if you don't know I'm certainly not going to explain it to you. Seek knowledge!! There were princes that roamed Califas that were proud and humble. But instead of learning about them which to me is important, I think now more important than Abe Lincoln, I learned about J.D. Rockefeller who helped kill children. That in itself should have all the Raza pissed off but no one seems to see it. People are still discriminating against us and ridiculing us in our school systems. We are not yet free,

but no one seems to care. Teachers don't let students at our public schools have their own ethnic clubs to learn about who they are. The stereotypes of the cholo and the gangster are worse now than ever before and until we kill that we will be nothing. The Mexicano with the serape and the sombrero is all people know about Latinos and for me that's not ever right. I'm not even Mexicano and I get called Mexican and insulted by the word "Hispanic" on all my application forms. I always put "Other," but no one cares.

I had a meeting with about six students to help them with some speeches and asked them, "Who is Cesar Chavez?" and they said, "I don't know." Yet they are willing to put his name which they don't even know on 24th St. What if that was something bad or unjust? No one takes the time to find out, read, and understand. I am puzzled and ask myself what the hell my gente are doing. I always wondered since that day how many Latinos are out there wondering about "Raza". Well, look all I'm trying to say is that there are thousands of homies out there and homegirls too. I mean the statistics say that the Aztlan nation will be the biggest in the nation. Well imagine all those carnales and carnalas getting together. To me that is the ultimate high. If our selfishness continues and our education diminishes anymore Raza will end. The dreams of our predecessors must stay alive: nationalism, unity, and advancement of the urban, suburban and rural Raza.

Lift yourselves out of the deep trenches which we have all dug. Rise to the occasion by succeeding and following your dreams. Never forget about Raza and the people will never forget you. Bloom like beautiful roses and flourish with education, self-esteem, and pride of your gente. Step to the next generation of Raza. Become the new-school educators by becoming educated to the old-school struggles. The young hearts are the motion of the Raza and the old are the wisdom. Our lives must come through God, familia, and our comunidad which defines "Raza" for me. Let your Dios be kind to all of you and may all your days fill with purpose and discovery for yourselves.

Gang members this is your column. This is your voice. Send your words, poems, rap songs and art to Deanne Berger-Moudgil, Column Editor, GangSpeak c/o El Tecolote, P.O. Box 40037, S.F. 94140, or call Deanne's pager. (415) 227-6338.

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# the Grassroots report

By: D. Michael Spero

## WALKING THE BEAT

Can a bunch of ordinary, unarmed citizens actually stop crime and make their neighborhood safe by patrolling the streets? The people around Mission Playground, near Valencia and 19th St., say they can. Where drug dealers and career criminals once terrorized residents into keeping their children home, the park now sparkles with the happy sounds of young people at play. An evening walker in the neighborhood no longer encounters anything dangerous or even unpleasant, and much of the credit must go to a group of neighborhood activists called Safe Streets.

"We're not out here to apprehend anybody or drive anybody out", says founding member Frank Morales. "We just want the place to be safe for the kids."

Safe Streets grew out of the Mission Playground Neighborhood Association. Threatened by violence, including the firebombing of an activist's home by dealers, the neighbors hit the streets in April, 1993, after three months of preparation and training from the Guardian Angels. They've walked the area between 18th and 20th Streets, from Valencia to Dolores, ever since.

I joined them for a patrol on a pleasant Monday evening. As neighbors showed up in their gray Safe Streets t-shirts, a group of young people who had been drinking in the park quietly left. I was a slow night; only six

Fred Barsuglia. At 7:30 we got under way. Two of the women were wearing whistles. The members take turns leading the patrol; tall, bearded Dan Harris was Monday's leader. He had the walkie-talkie, and kept in contact with the "base" in a neighbor's home. In case of any trouble, the base would call the police.

We walked in pairs down Linda to 18th and along 18th past the Womens' Building with its gorgeous mural-in-progress. Periodically we lined up along a fence or storefront at Harris' instruction and just watched for a while. People driving or walking by occasionally shouted words of encouragement and waved. A couple of people asked how they could help and were given information on the group. It was a pleasant evening out in the neighborhood.

"In a year and a half, we've had no violent incidents with the patrols," said Morales. "The worst has been some 'drive-by shoutings.'"

We wound around the narrow side streets and up to the Dolores Park steps. Way across the park a group of dealers near the J-car tracks glared at us. "They used to hang out and sell here on Dolores," said Neighborhood Association leader Kathy Courtney. "But we forced them out. They don't like us."

By 9:00 we were back at the playground, having seen absolutely zilch in the way of threatening activity. It felt good.

Safe Streets and two other Mission patrols, Lexington Lookouts and Natoma Neighbors, rely heavily on the support of the Guardian Angels. The controversial Guardians train community groups to observe, defuse potentially violent situations, walk in an organized way, and use radio equipment. Two to four



Safe Streets Team Frank Morales, Kathy Courtney and Dan Harris. Photo by Eugene Kettner

Angels usually accompany the neighbors on patrol.

"We support the community groups totally," said Angel leader Eric Johnson. "These patrols give people a sense of neighborhood. A lot of people are scared of their neighbors. This way they get to know them."

Johnson says the key to a successful street patrol is commitment. "It all depends on how active the neighborhood wants to be. How persistent are they? Do they really want to change the neighborhood?"

Not everyone agrees the Angels' tactics are effective. Gang member turned violence-prevention leader Danny Vargas told me his homeboys didn't change their behavior because of patrols. "We would just be cool when they walked by," he said. "When they were out of sight, we'd go back to gangbanging". Vargas feels neighborhood safety groups should approach youngsters who are hanging out and get to know them, try to make friends, and include them in the community, an approach Safe Streets agrees with.

What are the crucial elements of a successful patrol program? According to Pam Matsuda of Project SAFE, patrols should grow out of multi-issue neighborhood groups. "It's important to include everyone," she says, "and not everyone can patrol."

Some people are too gung-ho for the job and have to be gently excused. "We had one guy who was so enthusiastic, he couldn't wait to get out on the street," says Morales. "But when he found out we didn't carry weapons and that we searched each other to make sure, he never came back."

It's critical to have some positive programs

to go along with the patrolling. "The patrols have helped," says Courtney, "but more important, we've gotten the playground fixed up and got new recreation directors to bring kids back to the park."

Some of my liberal friends use terms like "fascist tendencies," and "vigilantes" to describe citizen anti-crime efforts. They wonder if efforts to control undesirable behavior could turn into distrust of outsiders or anyone who looks different. One Haight district activist told me that Residents Against Drugs, the local street patrol, harasses homeless people and anyone who looks scruffy, whether or not they're involved with crime.

Neighborhood groups do have a tendency to become conservative, but what choice do we have? The police can't be everywhere, and they are regarded as oppressors by many people, especially young people of color. But without some force for order, people go off the deep end. If neighbors don't take responsibility for their own safety, we have a choice between oppression and chaos. Groups like Safe Streets believe safety is a common denominator, a way of bringing people together to help everyone in the community.

Although the program has been a great success, fatigue does set in. Safe Streets has cut patrols back from three a week to one, and Natoma and Lexington streets have put their patrols on hold, partly because crime has moved elsewhere, but probably also because of burnout. Courtney is no ways tired, though.

"We keep going because we see what a difference it makes," she said. "We remember how things used to be."

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# SNAP SHOTS

By Robin Snyderman



as inspired by Snap the Wonder Dog

## PEACE CONFERENCE

- 1) Single Resident Occupancy,
- 2) SROs.
- 3) Residential Hotels

Care to free associate?

If you live or work in the Mission, chances are high that these three terms trigger negative images: dark and dingy corridors... depressing facades... dangerous corners... and, definitely, pets prohibited (along with any other symbols of solace).

The motivation behind Snapshots has always been twofold: (1) to present "Portraits in Progress" of ongoing Mission efforts, and (2) to do so "as inspired by Snap the Wonder Dog," i.e. with a loyal, non-cynical perspective.

So let's take a crack at challenging, even changing some of these SRO-related associations (and actualities) by following the lead of several Mission loyalists working to break through the stereotypes, and even walk through an SRO doorway or two accordingly.

## Strangers Or Neighbors?

On July 12, three residential hotel owners — Prabha Patel of the Eulah, Charlie Patel of the Apollo, and Ken Patel of the Sunrise — were invited to a meeting with about 25 concerned neighbors.

This gathering was arranged by the Mission Affordable Housing Alliance (MAHA), a two year-old coalition of all kinds of people interested in mitigating the local housing/homeless crisis. Representatives from St. Peter's Housing Committee, Dolores Street Shelters, Mission Housing Development Corporation (MHDC), Bernal Heights Housing Corporation, Guerrero House and other housing honchos sit side by side with neighborhood residents, business people, activists and service providers to keep each other informed, develop consensus and advocate as necessary. Updates on code enforcement, quality affordable housing development, and pertinent legislation are typical MAHA agenda items.

But in May, representatives from Intersection for the Arts and several residents from Mana Alicia Apartments approached MAHA for assistance. They felt that the hotels around 16th and Valencia were a destructive presence in the community, and that some kind of activism was in order. In June, lawyers came in from Tenderloin Housing Clinic and La Raza Centro Legal to dispense advice and detail case histories.

At that meeting, people agreed that face-to-face contact with hotel owners was the preferred starting point, and that lawsuits between strangers are as insidious as anonymous slumlords. So three letters went out to neighboring SROs, with MAHA members agreeing that if even one landlord came, it would be a sign of progress.

All three landlords RSVP'd. Two actually attended, from the Apollo and the Eulah, with the latter bringing both her resident manager and a friend, Ted Patel, who owns the Union Hotel on Mission Street.

The topic of the meeting: Conflict resolution. As stated in the invitations, "In an effort to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood, we would like to talk with you about the management of your hotel. In a corridor burdened with drug sales and other activities, each property owner, merchant, resident and employer must do his/her share to stabilize our community... to be part of the solution, and not be part of the problem." The letter went on to point out that MAHA members "prefer to discuss and resolve our concerns with you directly, rather than pursuing more impersonal tools or legal recourse," with clear implications that such tools would be accessed... if necessary.

## Neighbors

And the outcome? "A darn good start," according to Jerri Maxwell, Vice President of the Valencia Gardens Tenants Association. "I was really surprised to be in the same room as the owner of the Apollo, and to actually give him advice (which he listened to) on how to set up a neighborhood watch group or work with local service providers. We at Valencia Gardens have been doing these sorts of activities for over five years, and have lessons to share from our ups and downs along the way."

Oscar Wolters Duran of San Francisco SAFE, who has worked closely with the City Attorney's Office and MHDC in launching the Residential Hotel Management Training earlier this year, observed that Ms. Maxwell's statement represents an emerging trend. "One idea that came out at the MAHA meeting was that the old 'landlord vs tenants' antagonism really needs to be re-examined. In the long-run, the best solution is to approach both landlords and tenants from the middle, recognize that there's abuse on both sides, and then help each one see the other's point of view. That's been the movement of the management training, the meeting, and the outreach we're doing."

Elizabeth Milos of the Iris Center is working with Wolters Duran and others to follow up on residential hotel management training seminars and neighborhood meetings like that of MAHA by going into the SROs and meeting with residents and staff alike. "It's a pleasure to find hotel owners who are willing to work with us, accommodate tenant needs and accept input. It is a change of management style to collaborate with service providers," notes Milos. "The innovation of this whole thing is to truly access residents of SRO hotels and help them in building a healthy environment for themselves."

Richard Marquez of Ayuda agrees. "What's exciting about this outreach is the collaboration in organizing. Usually all the different interest groups organize separately. But in this case, the diversity around getting together will bring about a higher level of empowerment... By joining forces with MHDC, a community-based housing provider, the IRIS Center and San Francisco SAFE, we can really reach and work with a broad-section of SRO tenants, staff and landlords."

Amit Patel, Resident Manager of the Eulah Hotel, joined his colleagues in committing to attend future MAHA meetings, stating, "I'm eager to create relationships with the community that help both me and my tenants."

But Elizabeth Milos also puts in a word of caution. "It's important that the future meetings don't start from ground zero... We laid some major foundations at that last meeting, and now we need to get to work. People shouldn't live in isolation of each other. We'll all be better off once SRO residents and staff are involved with the neighborhood."

## The Wonder Dog's SRO days

For the record: It was actually two SRO residents that saved Snap's young life in 1989 after she was abandoned in South Park and abused by some local drunks who, by the way, were not residents of this particular SRO — though many neighbors assumed they were. Snap's first friends had lived in the hotel for over a year, and had only been "organized" six months when they found the pup. After working with staff to establish on-site programs at the hotel, many SRO tenants later joined the local neighborhood association, and contributed to the overall health of their community.

There are indeed models out there of safe, stable and enriching SRO communities. Perhaps half the battle is believing in the possibilities.



# WHO BENEFITED FROM HOMELESS BENEFITS?

by Victor Miller

A bounced check and two apparently nonexistent charitable organizations have raised questions about the activities of Juan Oyarzun, a Jordan appointee to the Social Services Commission. Oyarzun has been subpoenaed to appear before the State Labor Commissioner on August 25 to resolve a dispute with Pamela Robinson, a former employee of Centro Familiar, an elusive organization allegedly working to help the homeless. Oyarzun has represented himself as the Executive Director of Centro Familiar, and the principal party in a fundraising organization called Homeless Coalition Benefits. Oyarzun refuses to comment on this matter or even offer any explanation of what the two organizations actually do. "I can't say anything to you because I'm being investigated by the District Attorney's Office," he told the News. When asked exactly what he was being investigated for, Oyarzun said vaguely, "Well, you know everything."

According to Robinson, a professional social worker, she was hired by Oyarzun in December of 1993 as a part-time office assistant but quit when Oyarzun failed to pay her on three separate occasions. On January 19th, 1994, Robinson went to a meeting where Oyarzun was trying to convince Elizabeth Milos and Joanne Tornatore, who both work in the social services field, to become board members of Centro Familiar. Robinson raised the issue of her back pay and the following day received a written promise by Oyarzun to pay up by January 31st, which he did with a worthless check written on the account of the Homeless Coalition Benefits.

After this meeting, both Milos and Tornatore declined to be associated with Centro Familiar. Tornatore, who works with the Multicultural Aids Resource Center of California, said Oyarzun told her he represented a Latino organization doing work with battered women. She was interested enough to attend two meetings, including the one with Robinson, but that was more than enough. "It was just ludicrous, nothing but smoke and mirrors. Since there was no organization, I told him off and left."

On February, 22, five days after Oyarzun failed to appear at a scheduled meeting with the Labor Board, Robinson sent a letter to Mayor Jordan outlining her complaint but also bringing up a broader issue: "As a concerned Latina, I feel compelled to bring this matter to your attention since Mr. Oyarzun is a public

servant and should be well aware of the labor laws. He also claims to be working for the benefit of the Latino community, but I saw no services provided the entire time I was working there [Centro Familiar]." Robinson's letter was never answered.

If Centro Familiar and the Homeless Coalition Benefits appear to have no discern-



Soon to be Ex-Social Services Commissioner Juan Oyarzun

nable programs nor clients, neither did they have any legal existence. Legitimate non-profit charitable organizations must register with the California Secretary of State and file annual financial reports so they can be held accountable for funds collected. The Secretary of State has no record of either of these organizations. Yet fundraising events seem to be their principal and perhaps only activity.

Information on how many such fundraisers have been held and when is sketchy. One event was held on December 13, 1993, at 33 Embarcadero Center. It was billed as a gala dinner; but only a dozen or so people attended, one of whom, Mayor Frank Jordan, presented Oyarzun with a Mayoral Proclamation for Centro Familiar. In researching this article, the News talked to people who worked for Oyarzun; people Oyarzun worked for; people who for over a year sat with him on the Mayor's Task Force on the Mission (to which Jordan appointed him) and social service providers, both Mission-based and citywide. Nobody could give a single incidence of either of Oyarzun's organizations having done anything but raise or try to raise money.

When pushed on the matter, Oyarzun simply pointed to the Mayor's Proclamation hanging on the wall of the Valencia Street law office where he rents space and said, "Read that." The proclamation honors Centro Familiar for "work in the arias (sic) of domestic violence, tutorial programs, support for HIV Aids\ARC Prevention Programs..." — everything but the Apollo moonwalk. ("Arias"? shades of a political soap opera.) The Mayor's misspelled salute is Oyarzun's sole evidence of legitimacy the News was able to uncover.

Megan Levitan of the Mayor's Office of Business and Community Service said, "People request proclamations all the time, and we issue them; and, after all, he was commissioner." Since Oyarzun is a Jordan-appointed commissioner, this last bit of reasoning is somewhat circular. Asked if the Manson Family was eligible for mayoral kudos, Levitan responded that there is "an automatic red flag" that goes up in certain cases. After some checking, Levitan admitted that no one in the Mayor's Office, including the Mayor's Homeless Coordinator, had any knowledge of Oyarzun's two organizations.

How much money was raised by Oyarzun and where it went is uncertain, but where it didn't go is more definite. The Homeless Coalition Benefits did not provide any money to the well-known Coalition on Homelessness. Paul Boden, a spokesperson for this organization, said he was aware of the almost identically named Oyarzun operation. "We have absolutely no connection with him other than to answer telephone calls from people who received fundraising letters from Homeless Coalition Benefits and tell them were not associated." Boden said the most recent such inquiry had come on July 28. Oyarzun has always appeared to be astonished that anyone would assume the two organizations were affiliated.

Boden was rather livid about Oyarzun's modus operandi, especially in that he seems to have no established residence in San Francisco and when he registered to vote gave a Valencia Street business address. "By the same rules that he voted to enforce as a commissioner,

anybody on General Assistance doing that would lose their benefits," Boden said. "Everybody down at City Hall has known about this guy for a long time, but nobody does anything because it's just the Social Services — just poor people."

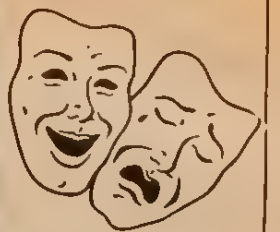
Levitan corroborated this, saying, "We've known for some time he'd have to be replaced." She added that Oyarzun's term as commissioner was up and he would not be reappointed.

A simmering Boden sees a political motive in keeping Oyarzun on the Commission as long as he has been. "He was a solid Jordan vote right down the line."

Another respected social service administrator unhappy with the name-game is Gloria Bonilla, Executive Director of Centro Latino. Oyarzun was employed by Centro Latino for five months in 1992, although the final two of those months were unpaid leave during which he worked on the unsuccessful re-election campaign of Supervisor Jim Gonzales. At the end of his leave of absence, Oyarzun's employment was terminated for reasons Bonilla declined to discuss. She did imply that Oyarzun was known to make use of names of existing organizations for his own purposes. Oyarzun's brief affiliation with Centro Latino and his own creation being named Centro Familiar could naturally be expected to result in some confusion. "We quickly put out a disclaimer on anything he was doing," Bonilla said.

Is there, as Oyarzun claims, a District Attorney's investigation directed at him? The D.A.'s Office has a no-comment policy on any ongoing investigations, so it's hard to say. Who benefited from all this rather insipid fundraising — which appears to still be going on? These questions remain unanswered. Pamela Robinson of course remains unpaid; but she's not angry so much about that as she is about the negative impact she believes Oyarzun has had on all those struggling without benefit of proclamations from the Mayor, for social change. "Because of people like him, nothing ever gets done in our community," she said.

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# ARTISTS' BASH, MONSTER MASH



Part of last month's "Little Night Show" at Little Frankenstein's. Photo by Eugene Kettner

## BLOOD OF KINGS

by Victor Miller

Ever notice that you can find more high quality art work in Mission District laundromats than entire East Bay cities? The Mission, despite some pretty heavy handed stereotyping by the daily press and some pretty determined ignoring by the weekly press, remains the most culturally vital neighborhood in San Francisco. Some of this is attributable to an influx of the bohemian set in the past few years, but the Mission's predominant artistic presence for the last 40 years has come from the Latino community. This is a boon to Mission artists who find an appreciative multicultural audience for their work and a cosmopolitan atmosphere conducive to collaboration.

However, one can have too much of a good thing, and there is a down side for Latin artists based in the Mission. For one thing gallery space is limited, and even though every square inch of cafe, taqueria and book store

wall is being utilized, it's still not enough. Even in the Mission District, exhibition space devoted exclusively to Latino artists is restricted to the Mission Cultural Center and Studio 24. In the wider city art scene Latin painters, graphic artists and sculptors are often classified as "ethnic artists" and steered toward the Mexican Museum.

Thus many Latin artists are denied a wider viewing public and consequently earn less money than they could. Paradoxically, living in the Latino-supportive Mission means that they are constantly besieged to donate their services for a variety of community-related causes. So, surrounded by those who admire their work the most, they wind up working harder for a smaller return.

Some of them are pissed off and have organized "Sangre de los Reyes\Blood of Kings," a group road show by a rotating ensemble of the Mission's more notable creative people who are Latinos and whose works makes abundant use of Latin American and pre-Columbian iconography.

Their latest foray into venue- and attitude-husting took place last month at Little Frankenstein's at 17th and Sanchez (see accompanying article) on the Mission-Castro-Duboce cusp. Inaugurated with music, poetry and song, the most recent Blood of Kings exhibit established a temporary beachhead just barely outside the neighborhood. The thematic show was titled "Little Night" focused on the Mission District after dark.

One Blood of Kings artist, 26-year-old Lawrence Colacion, likes the idea of his work being seen by fresh audiences. Colacion draws on personal experiences growing up in L.A.

"I use old family photos from the 40s and 50s. It's a kind of visual historical documentation," he says. Colacion's images explore common teenage motifs of hanging out, cruising, etc. from a Chicano perspective. He feels his work, though recognizably Chicano, has a more universal relevance "Every town has a Mission District" he says.

B of K sparkplug Mike Roman, head of the Textile Department at Mission Cultural Center's Mission Grafica, has worked for "Gentleman's Quarterly" and "Vanity Fair" in

New York. Also from L.A., Roman says he was set up at the Cultural Center by Carlos Santana to teach art to kids who were at risk of becoming gang members. Roman likes this work but resents other aspects of the San Francisco art scene that fixate on his ethnicity.

"I'm an artist. I'm producing stuff all the time but sometimes I feel like I'm making a living as a Latino. It's not like that in other places; it's not so fragmented," says Roman, whose vibrant textile works incorporate Pre-Columbian elements with contemporary events (Chiapas, Somalia) in a kind of post-modern multi-cultural jam. Roman set up the first Blood of Kings event, a Day of the Dead Celebration in Cole Valley (!?) last fall.

Also part of the roving troupe are Jesus Angel Perez, profiled in New Mission News in June 1994, and Sean Seymour. Roman is in the process of recruiting more participants. "I want to be like a DJ that wires up different artists," he says.

Watch these pages for news of B of K excursions into some of the city's more culturally underdeveloped areas such as Pacific Heights and Seal Cliff.



A customer eyes a wall of voodoo dolls. Photo by Eugene Kettner.

## LITTLE FRANKENSTEIN'S

by Victor Miller

Little Frankenstein's, home of the Scary Hairy Toy Company, partakes of different genres. It is in the tradition of those great stories we've all grown up with, the one's about giant alligators living in the sewers, long dead prom queens seen hitchhiking on lonely country roads, and hook handed escaped lunatics terrorizing teenaged couples on lovers lane - the body of contemporary urban folk tales.

Then there's pop cultural capitalism: the Star Trek phaser pistols, Yoda bubble bath and Aliens action figures that constitute the merchandising arm of the modern mainstream entertainment. Little Frankenstein's is a variation on this theme too.

At Little Frankenstein's you can also find the largest indoor miniature golf course this side of the Bay, a three-holer called Frankenstein's Island with a prize-laden bucket attached to the ceiling, triggered to descend when the proper level of puttsmanship is demonstrated.

It's a gift store for the deranged, a toy store for the goofy of mind and young of heart, and the world's smallest theme park. It's also a gallery and last month hosted the "Blood of Kings Show" (see accompanying article).

Twenty-six-year-old Flower Frankenstein, a survivor of the punk scene, and her partner Bruce Hilvitz, a thirty-three-year-old maven of the underground comics scene, used to lead a nomadic commercial existence on the street fair circuit. Now they've come to rest in this cozy storefront at 17th and Sanchez. Flower says that street fair economics required a watering down of some of their more outrageous conceptual flourishes. The two-headed talking monster doll (the left head squeaks and the right head listens) may have been a little too weird for the street fair crowds, but surely not for the majority of our readers. The folks at the Mattel Toy Company, who commissioned a commemorative Barbie Doll from Scary Hairy, were not amused when they

received Flower's Monster Truck Barbie in pink hogwasher overalls, accessorised with a sixpack of beer and a pack of Lucky Strikes. A viceless Monster Truck Barbie will however, eventually find its way to all the better malls.

Okay, so now they've got their own place and it's no more Mr. Nice Toymaker. It's time to kick some serious urban folkart butt, slap some archetypes upside the head and let the strange times roll.

One of the things Little Frankenstein's got in mind is an alliance with underground comic artists to produce games, action figures and other items of merriment. Hand-silk-screened wigout game boards are a feature in such twists to assaults on Milton-Bradly conservatism as:

Skidrow A Go Go by Matso - "Stumble headfirst into the glamorous lifestyle of crackheads, thieves and alcoholics," says the Scary Hairy catalogue. You win this game by blowing your brains out. However it may not provide the requisite amount of escapism to amuse most Mission residents.

Land of Sugar by Dave Freemont - requires the additional purchase of "a 1 lb of round hard candy in order to win your place in the vomit farm." (Which reminds me: my Spit Fire Space gun that came free with the catalogue didn't include any spit for ammunition, but maybe that's just as well).

A Slutburger doll, based on Mary Fleener's comic book series, is in the works, and Lloyd Dangle is working on a 3-D model of Trouble Town. There's also T-shirts, posters, voodoo dolls and, of course, comics scattered about the place, all in the remarkably cheap price range of \$5-15.

Yet to be lured into the Little Frankenstein merchandising scheme is local sleazy legend S. Clay Wilson. What better Christmas gift could there be than a Captain Pissgums Pervert Pirate Ship?

I could go on but that would spoil the fun of checking it out for yourself. Little Frankenstein's is located at 3804 17th St., open Thursday - Sunday 12 noon to 10 pm; call 864-6543.

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## Waldengate

On July 13, 1994, four days after sending letters to Walden House addressed to Alfonso Acampora and Andrew Hayes, I received an anonymous letter threatening to publicly divulge the personal and private details of my recent and painful divorce unless I stopped writing about Walden House. The letter suggests that I "crawl back under the rock from whence I came". On July 20, 1994, I received another similar letter. The following is my response:

## Let's Put It In the Mission

Every time San Francisco needs a place to put something that nobody wants, they try to stick it in the Mission. They assume that our neighborhood is populated by a bunch of ignorant people who don't speak English, don't vote, and are too helpless to fight back.

Walden House didn't come to the Mission a few months ago because they wanted to help us with our problems; they came in here with a take-no-prisoners attitude, like a bunch of carpetbaggers about to loot the old South.

Walden House told us that they had done a thorough site search and that the only appropriate building in San Francisco for their new treatment facility was their landlord's warehouse in the Mission at \$1 million over market value. But, at first blush, both the Gotham hotel at 835 Turk St. and the Victoria Manor at 1444 McAllister St. seem to be infinitely more suitable for conversion to residential treatment than 400 Alabama; and for millions of dollars less.

Walden House told us that they were forbidden by law from reserving any of the treatment slots at 400 Alabama for drug abusers from our neighborhood. Not true, according to John Phillips (information officer for the regional office of HUD) and Wayne Clark (director of the S.F. Community Substance Abuse Services Dept.).

Walden House told us that they had a working relationship with substance abuse treatment service providers in the Mission. Not true, according to Richard Marquez of AYUDA and German Martinez of the Day Labor Program.

Walden House told us that they had no plans to move their existing programs to 400 Alabama. But, in a letter from Walden House president Alfonso Acampora to Vince Brown at CAL Mortgage dated 5/14/93, and in Walden House's response to question 13 of the DASH RFP review dated 11/2/92, Walden House revealed its contingency plan to move their other programs including intake services to 400 Alabama if operating funds grew scarce (like they just have).

Walden House, the Mayor's Office of Housing, and the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency told us that there was no point in

objecting to the siting of the STEPS project at 400 Alabama because it was already a done deal. The fix might have been in, but the truth has set us free.

## More STEPS in the Mission?

Though it appears that Walden House has abandoned its plan to open a 200 bed detoxification, residential treatment and sober housing facility (STEPS) at 17th and Alabama, according to Walden House homeless coordinator Andrew Hayes, Walden House is now considering alternative sites including several in the Mission District.

According to Ted Dienstfrey, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Housing, one very promising site which he was planning to inspect at press time is the Victoria Manor, a 3-1/2-story steel-and-concrete fire resistant building located at 1444 McAllister St. According to the TRI prospectus, Victoria Manor was previously licensed as a 140-bed skilled nursing facility and is presently licensed as a board and care facility. The building includes 66 multiple occupancy sleeping rooms, a modern kitchen, laundry, dining room, recreation room, 2 large elevators, and 25 parking spaces. The building is up to code and is already equipped with fire detectors, fire escapes, and fire sprinklers.

According to the prospectus, Victoria Manor is being offered for sale for \$5 million but could probably be had for \$4.2 million or less. Including \$800,000 for the relocation of the existing clients (all month-to-month tenants) and another \$500,000 for modest remodeling and contingencies, the total price of 1444 McAllister would be \$5.5 million, at least \$5 million dollars less than the previously proposed 400 Alabama Street project.

Walden House has specifically instructed all of their employees not to speak to me except to refer my questions to Walden House's attorney, William G. James; but, after more than a month of inquiries, the only response I got was an admission that Walden House has 21 leased vehicles, five of which are reserved for the use of Walden House executive staff.

## College Degrees

In June, I criticized Alfonso Acampora, the President and CEO of Walden House, because Alfonso makes \$105,850 per year (plus annual bonuses and an expense account) and drives a \$40,000 Lincoln Town Car leased at public expense for his personal use.

I also stated that Alfonso received his MBA degree from an unaccredited correspondence school called Summit University of Louisiana. In some detail, I described how Summit had been successfully sued by two of its students, forced to refund their tuition, subsequently prohibited from doing business in the State of California, and specifically denigrated as a "degree mill pure and simple" by Dr. Steve Levicoff, the author of a book on degree mills.

At the end of June 1994, I received documents which indicated that Alfonso Acampora and seven other Walden House employees were enrolled at Summit University of Louisiana in July of 1990 through the "Walden Institute" and were subsequently granted bachelors, masters, or doctoral degrees in June of 1991. According to the documents, the tuition for all eight Walden House employees was paid by Walden House, presumably with public money.

## Who's Got The Contract?

When Walden House responded to RFP 169-92, the \$4 million Public Health contract for a new S.F. drug treatment program (DASH/STEPS), they included several resumes containing Summit University degrees in their bid. It is my opinion that the DASH/STEPS bid process was tainted by the inclusion of these highly questionable professional credentials and Walden House's STEPS contract should be rescinded.

When confronted directly about a rumor that the Mayor's Office of Housing is shopping around for another service provider for the STEPS project, Dienstfrey admitted that he had discussed that possibility with Swords to Plowshares. Dienstfrey said: "Lots of projects both public and private get bogged down. When that happens, you try to rethink the situation as best you can."

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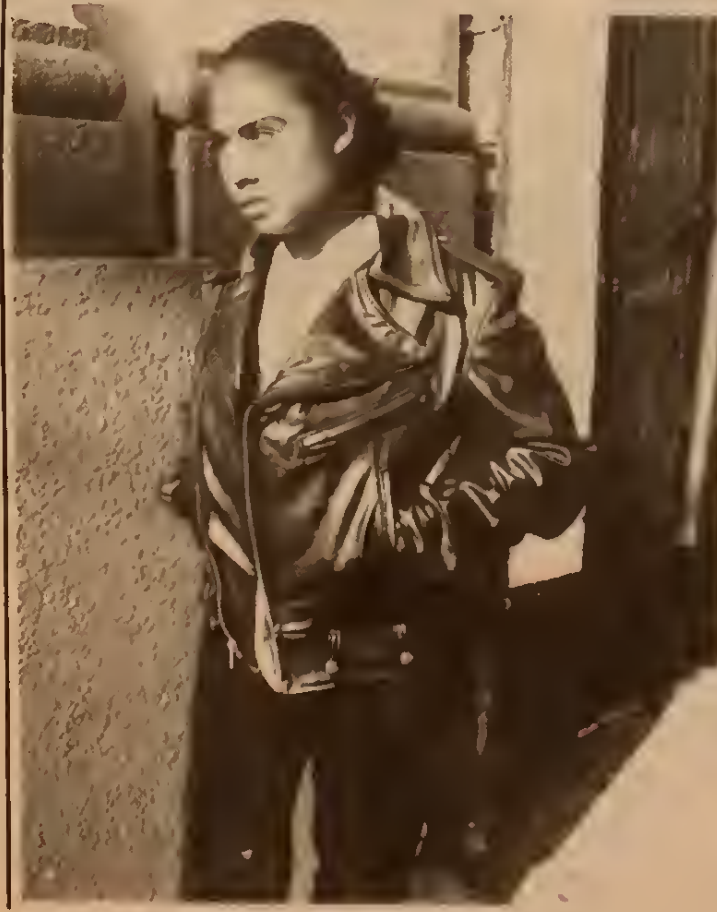
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# Neighborhood BEAT

Photos and text by Eugene Kettner

## PEACE POSSE



Johnnie Spain

Johnnie Spain shot and killed a man in a robbery. He spent 21 years in prison for the crime. Today he trains law enforcement personnel in multiculturalism. On Friday, July 22nd, he lectured a group of neighborhood activists-in-training about why prisons don't work. California voters, take note: This man makes more sense than any "Lock 'em up and

throw away the key" politician currently running for public office.

Nineteen out of every twenty people in prison are eventually released. In California, 82% of those released go back to jail. The California Department of Corrections is like a monopolistic auto body shop. Imagine that your locality has one, and only one, such shop. If it produces a defective product, you have

only one place to go for repairs. That's the state prison system. It is not designed to fix people so they don't go back. It's designed to screw them up, to insure that they come back, thereby keeping itself in business. This is Spain's message.

Spain's lecture, at the New College of California, was part of a training program sponsored by the Peace Academy, a project of the Summer of Safety's "Peace Posse". The Peace Posse is a group of 80 participants hired for one summer to work as peacekeepers in four city neighborhoods, including the Mission District. Members complete one week of intensive "peace education", where they learn

conflict resolution and violence prevention. They are then sent into the community, where they initiate contacts with gang members, teach conflict resolution to elementary students, and initiate non-violence projects of their own.

It's an ambitious program, and one whose future is, to put it mildly, dicey. Funding from President Clinton's National Service Trust Act is guaranteed for the summer of 1994; nobody knows if the funding will be there for the summer of 1995. If you'd like more information about the posse, call Marivic Mabanag at 554-9535.

## GROUND ZERO



**Q:** If you were a young person who, for whatever reason, found it impossible to live with the people who are supposed to take care of you, what could you do?

**A:** Well, being able to support yourself so that you could take charge of your own life would be helpful.

Ground Zero is a job training program that helps at-risk young people, ages 16 to 22, learn a marketable trade so that they can earn their own paychecks. If you've had to look for a job recently, you know that most of what's out there involves low-skilled, mundane, task-oriented work, like Burger King or McDonalds. Ground Zero attempts to establish businesses and vocational opportunities that are more creative. The programs being offered are bicycle repair, jewelry making,

ceramics, welding, woodworking, fine arts, food preparation, performing arts, photography and silk screening. And here's the kicker. In the last six months, their successful job placement rate has been 100%.

You can help these folks out. If you're an employer who needs a trained and motivated employee, you should call Ground Zero. The program also needs donations of equipment including construction equipment (saws, drills, hammers, building materials) and printing equipment (printing presses).

They also need volunteers who will mentor the young people, counsel them, and help with teaching job skills. Volunteers should must be able to make a firm commitment to show up once a week. The program prefers people with solid business skills.

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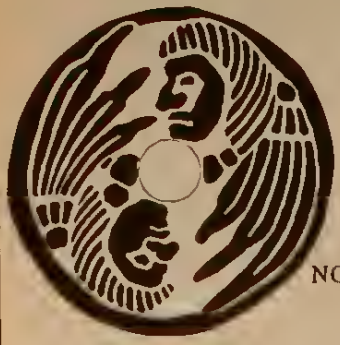


The Robert Henry Johnson Dance Company will present a two hour performance of six dance works at the New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th Street, August 12 through August 14th. Johnson is a San Francisco choreographer with a ten-year history in dance whose productions have been staged throughout the United States. His current dance company was formed last year. This upcoming show, appropriately named "The Second Sphere," is the company's second

work. Stephanie Powell, principle dancer with the Oakland Ballet, will be the guest artist.

The opening performance will be on Friday, August 12, at 8:00 pm. Additional performances will be on Saturday, August 13 at 2:30 pm and 7:00 pm and Sunday August 14. Tickets are \$15; students, seniors and the unwaged may receive a discount from the New Performance Gallery box office at (415) 824-8844. Tickets are also available at Bass ticket outlets or from Tix Bay Area in Union Square.





# AMERICA 502

NOTES ON THE 502ND YEAR OF THE OCCUPATION

BY ROSE ARRIETA

## Big Mountain, Arizona

Arizona's Black Mesa stretches for miles. Deep rust red rocks jut out in various shapes along the mesas in this dry, high desert. Sheep, goats, cows, and horses graze the land, sometimes stepping onto the road, forcing drivers to slow and eventually stop their cars as the animals meander to the other side. Here, dust swirls up with the scorching winds, and roads are so bumpy one is forced to leave the urban rhythm behind. Wild sage, cedar, pinon and juniper trees fill this 25,000 square mile reservation.

One can feel the ancient spirits on this land, land in which the Dine and Hopi have lived peacefully for centuries. And though they have had a long history together, a sadness and weariness thickens the air. It is here that Peabody Coal has for years, continued to mine, pumping up more than one billion gallons of water from the aquifer every year - depleting the water supply, polluting the land, ruining lives. But it also is here one sees the elder women wearing their long skirts and blouses, scarves, and jewelry. These beautiful queens of the desert hold on to their homes and to their livestock, for to hold on, to resist, is to live. And to move, relocate, to let go, is to die.

When asked why she won't move, an elder Dine told author Emily Benedek, "The wind won't know me there. The Holy People won't know me. And I won't know the Holy People. And there's no one left who can tell me." Benedek wrote a book on the relocation effort by the government.

This is the land of the Big Mountain

resisters of the government-ordered relocation of thousands of Navajo families - families who lived on the wrong side of the border when the area was partitioned between the Dine and the Hopi. Here you will find the warrior women and men, those who have decided to stay and fight the attempt to uproot them from their ancestral land.

The night is still except for the sounds of the animals - the coyotes, the birds, the insects - and the sky is a blanket of stars. Water here is sacred and very difficult to get. It is hauled in from miles away just to drink and wash and one learns, very, very quickly, the sacredness of water.

It is so ironic that such beauty and peace is juxtaposed against constant low intensity warfare. Military aircraft fly loud and low over the homes of resisters and the Big Mountain and Cactus Valley communities are constantly harassed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, tribal police and security hired by Peabody Coal. The Dine frequently have their livestock confiscated and must pay exorbitant fines to get them back, only to have them confiscated again.

"What used to cost \$100 to release our livestock now costs \$1,000," says one Navajo. They are denied the right to upgrade or add on to their homes. If they improve their homes, their dwellings are destroyed under Public Law 93-531, which was passed by Congress in 1974 to relocate the people.

"Peabody Coal Company's public relations and lobbying effort created a manufactured Hopi-Navajo land dispute and no one bothered to listen to the voices of thousands of Hopi and Dine people who had peacefully co-

existed in the region for hundreds of years," says Louise Bennally, a local resident and activist.

Congress passed the law mistakenly believing it was the only solution to the dispute. As a result, thousands of Dine were relocated, dumped into the cities or relocated to toxic contaminated lands often without compensation.

This year, there was a controversial "new agreement" derived from 17 months of confidential mediation talks ordered by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. The mediation stemmed from the First Amendment religious freedom lawsuit brought by 250 Dine families facing the prospect of relocation. They say that relocation violates their religious freedom because their spirituality and lifestyle are based on their connection to the land. Big Mountain is where they gather their healing herbs, where their ancestors are buried, where their sacred shrines are. They believe that when they are compelled to relocate, they are subjected to conditions of life that will destroy them.

For the Dine, the agreement is a joke. It allows 250 Dine families to stay on their land with 75-year leases in exchange for the transfer of more than 500,000 acres of federal, state and privately-owned property to the Hopis, and pays the tribe \$15 million to settle seven lawsuits against the Dine.

In a statement released by the Big Mountain resisters, "We have told the Hopi Tribal Council and the Navajo Tribal Council many times that we don't want to sign and that this is

anti-Indian legislation. We have been told that there is no alternative." Says Navajo grandmother Mae Tso, "We do not want to be removed from this land, the land of our ancestors. The agreement does not represent our way of thinking out here. It really does not help us at all."

The group is demanding the right to choose their own legal representative and "expose the extortion tactics used by the Department of Justice officials who have threatened that if we do not sign the agreement our livestock will be confiscated and that we will be forcibly relocated."

The resisters say that the agreement is a legal way to evict them from their homes and their land. Under the terms of the agreement, if the Navajo Nation is 30 days late in paying the \$200,000 yearly rent, they can be evicted from the land.

U.S. Senator Dennis DeConcini, a member of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, met with about 50 Navajos recently. He has long been a supporter of the resisters. Three times in the 70s he introduced legislation to repeal the Relocation Act, with no luck.

"This is truly a humanitarian tragedy that our government has foisted upon Native Americans," DeConcini said. "Every time I witness it I just get angry with my own government and frustrated with the failure to make a change that seems so easy and yet, right now, impossible."

Says Bennally, "If they really want this land so bad, they can come and pull me out, uproot me. That's how committed to the land we are."



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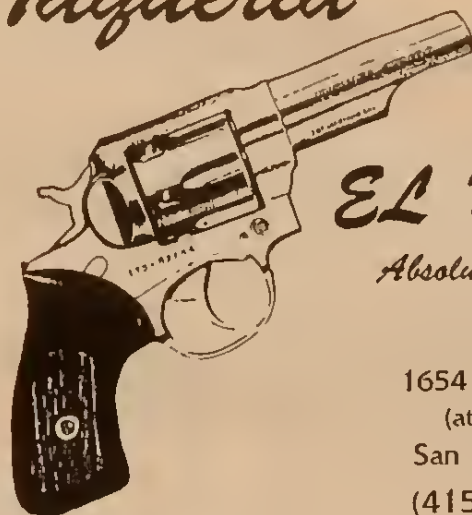
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## HOUSING PLANNED FOR 21ST AND SO. VAN NESS

The Mission Housing and Development Corporation has announced plans to build 30 units of housing for families at 1010 South Van Ness. The development will include open space, community facilities, and parking. Units are intended for low and very low income families and ten apartments have been set aside for families with one or more members suffering from HIV/AIDS. MHDC will be holding a series of meetings with community residents throughout the planning and construction process. The first of these will be at St. Mary's and Martha's Church, 3126 21st St, Tuesday, August 9, at 6:30 pm. for more information call 864-6432.

# What effect will higher payroll taxes have on neighborhood businesses?

### San Francisco's business taxes are already high.

The City's per capita business taxes are 3.5 times the national average for 16 major cities, according to the Mayor's Fiscal Advisory Committee. A recent Committee On JOBS survey found that San Francisco businesses can cut their tax bills by 9 to 18 percent by relocating to other Northern California cities, such as South San Francisco, Walnut Creek, Oakland, Sacramento and Santa Rosa.

### San Francisco can't afford to lose more jobs.

A study commissioned during the Agnos administration estimated that San Francisco loses 2,800 manufacturing and wholesale jobs with every tenth of a percent increase in the payroll/gross receipts tax. We can't afford to lose more high-wage positions. According to the Department of City Planning, between 1991 and 1992, San Francisco lost more than 30,000 jobs.

### Excessive taxes levied on one business sector hurt the whole local economy.

The fortunes of small and big business are intertwined because many

neighborhood businesses depend on large employers for contracts. Consider TCB Builders in the South of Market district. TCB does everything from office remodeling to concrete work for San Francisco-based companies, such as Bank of America, Chevron, Pacific Gas & Electric and Pacific Telesis Company.

"The payroll tax is a tax on jobs," says TCB General Manager Tom Barnes. "We have been in business in San Francisco for close to 20 years. We have 20 employees and more than two dozen San Francisco-based vendors. Between 60 and 70 percent of our work comes from local corporations. We can't afford to lose these major employers."

If you agree that it's time for City Hall to make ends meet by cutting costs, not by taxing jobs out of the City, voice your concern. Clip and send in the attached coupon to the Board of Supervisors.

**A strong local economy  
requires more than just big  
business or small business—  
it takes all business.**

Yes, I want a long-term solution to the City's fiscal crisis. The Board of Supervisors should pursue cost-cutting plans before it contemplates more taxes.

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Send to: *Members*  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
City Hall, Room 235  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Yes, I am interested in learning more about ways to solve the City's fiscal crisis, including budget and Charter reform. Please send me more information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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Send to: *Committee On JOBS*  
550 Kearny Street, Suite 1010  
San Francisco, CA 94108

Every summer it's the same. San Francisco city government scrambles to bridge a multi-million dollar budget gap with new business taxes. In some years, these taxes hit small businesses especially hard, in others they hit big employers. But the effect is the same: businesses are closing or leaving San Francisco, and they're taking jobs with them. And when businesses and jobs leave a neighborhood they trigger a domino effect — economic decline, diminished city services and tumbling property values.

### The Tax Spiral

The Mayor and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors have raised business taxes twice during the last two years: a total of \$30 million in 1993 and \$12 million in 1992. Raising the City's already high business taxes won't even begin to solve the City's long-term structural budget problems, but it will cost jobs.

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Sunset Beacon; West of Twin Peaks Observer.



# AT LAST, AT LAST, THE COLA CABANA

by Victor Miller

The Mission District's reputation for fine dining, a notion that would have been unthinkable only a few years ago, has been further enhanced by the long-awaited opening of the Cola Cabana Restaurant, on Mission St. near 20th.

The Cola Cabana is the product of 15 years of painstaking artistry and hard work that more than once nearly broke either the back, heart or bankbook of popular neighborhood dentist Robert Cenicerros. Cenicerros has been working on this project since a peanut farmer led the nation and the Sex Pistols were still a force to be reckoned with in the world of music.

In 1977 the sleazy, even by Mission standards, Silver Cat Bar and a moribund children's clothing store occupied adjoining storefronts below the sinister and inappropriately named Majestic Hotel, a place of rats and roaches rented by the hour by the unsavory. The Majestic, in form if not function, was a fine old Italianate Victorian building of 1875 vintage located on Mission St just safely South of the 20th St. dynamite line, where in April of 1906 a judicious use of explosives stopped the Great Fire that followed the Big Shake. The Majestic survived, but at some subsequent date she was jacked up one story to add commercial space on the bottom floor. The upper floors are now the Andora Inn, a bed-and-breakfast affair that Cenicerros has meticulously restored as a truer successor to the building's original 19th-Century elegance than the whored fire trap that was condemned by the City almost as soon as he purchased it in 1977.

Cenicerros, who established his dental office next store at about the same time, has spent the past decade-and-a-half attempting to meet all the complex and sometimes contradictory demands City inspectors seem hellbent to impose with maximum rigor on anyone who might, save for bureaucratic vigilance, make our community a better place. Despite his successful practice, renovations work began to take its toll in dollars; and by 1994 project

expenses had hit the million dollar mark, but Cenicerros steadfastly refused to compromise his credo: "No visual flaws, it's got to be an art piece as an environment." It is.

Despite the Herculean efforts involved in completing the Andora Inn\Cola Cabana, Cenicerros managed to complete work on his 650-page science fiction novel Space Shell and

three hours of an early Sunday evening.

We started off with Gammas a la Vasca, six large and very fresh tiger prawns sauteed in white wine and seasoned with herbs and garlic (\$6.95). It was served with rice flavored by finely-chopped parsley. Like the orders that followed, and unlike many style-dominated tapas establishments, portions were surpris-

of sweetness, and more subtly seasoned than the previous courses. Our final tapa Pollo al Ajillo (\$4.50), six skewers of grilled chicken tenderloins with garlic, was moist and delicious. It was also, the cumulative effect beginning to set in, quite enough for the evening but we nevertheless found room for a globby and extremely rich order of chocolate mousse, served with raspberries and a fresh mint leaf.

For the time spent and the amount consumed, the price of the meal puts the Cola Cabana in the moderate range in terms of expense. The surroundings and the cuisine (under the direction of chef Larry Robinson, formerly of the Sailing Ship Restaurant), work together extremely well to create the Mission's premier dining experience in terms of satisfaction.

Cola Cabana's full dinner menu includes steaks, chicken, and seafood. Prices range from \$7.95 for vegetarian enchiladas (these are stuffed with garlic, cheese, chopped black olives and sliced green onions) to \$11.25 for the New York Steak with mushrooms.

Lunches include pastas such as seafood fettuccine served in lemon sauce (\$6.95), chicken and vegetarian dishes plus salads and sandwiches.

The Cola Cabana bar features a wide selection of beers and wines, plus a full line of coffee and espresso drinks — the multi-talented Dr. Cenicerros makes a mean caffe latte. So if you're just in the mood for a glass of wine or Cappuccino enjoyed around the tropical fish pool, drop in.

At a time when the Mission is struggling to redefine itself as a cosmopolitan and vibrant place, the Cola Cabana's opening provides elegant testimony to the creativity and elan that keep our community vital and exciting.

The Cola Cabana is located at 2434 Mission St. between 20th and 21st. It is open daily from 11 a.m.-10 p.m., with lunch 11 a.m.-3 p.m., dinner 5-10 p.m. Phone 282-2447. To reserve a room at the Andora Inn call 282-0337.



Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

the Solestrian but that's another story.

Okay, okay, okay, okay, as Joe Pesci would say, let's talk about the restaurant. There's no better way to spend the end of the day than with agreeable company in a long and lazy sampling from the wide selection of the Cola Cabana's Spanish tapas. In the polished wood and stained glass ambiance of this finely appointed restaurant, a friend and I got somewhat seduced by the laid-back nature of the surroundings and varied pleasures of the cuisine to loll away, much to our amazement,

ingly generous. We followed this up with another seafood tapa, Quesadillas de Camarones, a buttery shrimp and sharp cheese dish enhanced by olives, cilantro and tomatoes accompanied by black beans (with a mild hint of chili) and sour cream (\$5.50). This order was surprisingly filling and once again attention to detail, the hint of chili in the beans, made for a superior rather than just a good dining experience. The vegetarian order of Tortilla de Patata, potato and onion omelette (\$4.00) that came next was light and flaky with just a trace



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## WALDEN HOUSE RESPONDS TO IT'S CRITICS

As I am sure you are aware, Walden House and I have been attacked recently for attempting to develop our proposed project at 400 Alabama Street. I have been physically assaulted at public meetings, my staff and I have been harassed in our homes, and we all have been the targets of false statements, innuendo and rumor. Unable to get their way in open democratic debate in various public forums, some people apparently think that personal threats and intimidation are the way to achieve their personal goals.

Unfortunately, even after the 400 Alabama Street project had to be put on hold for lack of funding, the attacks have continued, and in some ways have accelerated. Recently, they have taken a particularly nasty turn, with the obvious goal of interfering with our work on behalf of our clients city-wide.

So I thought I should take a moment to address the recent, particularly scurrilous rumor that Walden House and I are under some sort of investigation, and the related sug-

gestion that Walden House and I should not be involved in any further projects while the investigation is continuing.

We have looked into this and found no indication that Walden House or I was or will be the subject of any current or potential investigation by any law enforcement agency. We knew there was no legitimate basis for any investigation but, given the intensity of the attacks on us, we had no doubt that someone was at least attempting to stir something up. Apparently, they were not successful.

Walden House has travelled a long road in the 25 years since its founding. No one can really question our ability to help addicts turn their lives around. We take in everyone we have room for who needs and wants help. We teach our clients the dignity of hard work and the magic of self-respect. And then we send them back to their families and communities as responsible and productive citizens.

A small vocal group decided early on that Walden House and our clients would not be

welcomed into the Mission. Unable to attack our methods, these people have tried to plant the seeds of fear and distrust in the community. We continue to be subjected to a well orchestrated and personal attack on our integrity. But the real victims - the people who will be hurt most by what is going on - are the addicted, abused and disenfranchised members of our community, in particular the Mission community, who may not be able to take advantage of our programs if these people should have their way.

We are proud to be working with the city, state and federal governments and the various neighborhoods in San Francisco to combat substance abuse, and we intend to keep doing just that both now and in the years to come. I would urge everyone in the Mission community to reject the current attempts to prevent Walden House from opening a facility in the Mission, and to help us help your family, friends and children in their own community.

Alfonso Alcampora,  
Walden House President  
and Chief Executive Officer

## BIKE ROUTES OR WHEEL SPINNING?

By A.E.Vail

Fifty or more cycling enthusiasts showed up at the New College of California on Valencia St. on July 25th to discuss the city's proposed bike routes. The Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT) and the City's Bicycle Advisory Committee held this meeting expressly for feedback on the proposed bike route map, sent out to those on their mailing list, as part of a new \$100,000 city project.

The map resembles a Muni map, with a series of numbered routes criss-crossing the city. There are an impressive number of lines on the map, but unfortunately, some aspects of the project seem ill considered. For example: there are many routes concentrated in some areas (West Portal, for instance), while only one or two in other districts known to cyclists to be heavily pedaled (such as the Mission). Market Street is marked as a route, which even non-cyclists can guess is only suitable for the most daring and experienced riders. There is no indication on the map of street grades or traffic conditions. Even considering that the map is still in draft form, it seems far inferior to the currently available San Francisco Biking Walking Guide published by Rufus Graphics (includes street grades, recommended routes and pertinent information), which the city planners apparently did not think to consult.

Most comments at the meeting were supportive, but there was some constructive criticism. Many people shared information on favorite routes. Some offered suggestions such as grading the map and color-coding routes according to traffic, physical road conditions, etc. Some people pointed out that the map did not offer enough choices to popular destinations, such as SF State and other schools. Also, places with bike lockers should

be marked, as well as other bike-friendly spots.

One cyclist complained that discussing and even mapping the best way to get from here to there is not going to improve the quality of biking in SF or the number of people willing to brave it. Further, he pointed out that taking such discussion seriously means the City will continue to do little for cyclists.

Though DPT seems sincere in their desire to make SF more cyclist friendly, how they intend to do this is rather unclear. This reporter called Dave Snyder of the SF Bicycle Coalition before to clarify the purpose of the new bike map. According to Snyder, "Its purpose is to designate routes for cyclists, to encourage more people to get out." It does not mean that these routes will be physically marked with signs or lanes, designated as bike-right-of-way zones, given re-pavement priority, or widened. Snyder added that DPT's bike-positive plans for Valencia Street (removal of the median and a 2 1/2 foot widening of the right lane in both directions) will not include actual marked bike lanes.

According to Peter Tannen, Bicycle Coordinator for DPT, the City is paying Wilbur Smith Associates \$100,000 to provide a Bike Plan "which will include designated bike routes, a map, a survey of conditions, outline education plans, provide figures, time frames, [etc.]" When and if the plan will be acted upon is not yet part of the picture.

The San Francisco Bicycle Advisory Committee currently has an opening for a new member. The Committee is a volunteer group that works with the City and DPT on bicycle projects. Call 554-2300 for more information.



## Para la pasión y el saber, la distancia no existe.

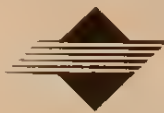
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Esta es sólo una de las maneras en que Sprint se acerca a la comunidad. Deseamos

agradecer a La Cámara de Comercio Hispana de los EEUU, a Las Américas Today Magazine y a Hispanic Magazine por reconocer nuestro esfuerzo, y felicitar a los países que apasionaron al mundo con su fútbol en La Copa Mundial USA'94. En Sprint sabemos que la pasión, al igual que el saber, no conoce distancias.

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Sat. 9 - 3pm  
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For a free map of garage sale locations, send a SASE (self addressed stamped envelope) to  
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# CALIXTO ROBLES: EYE ON THE JAGUAR

by Murray Paskin

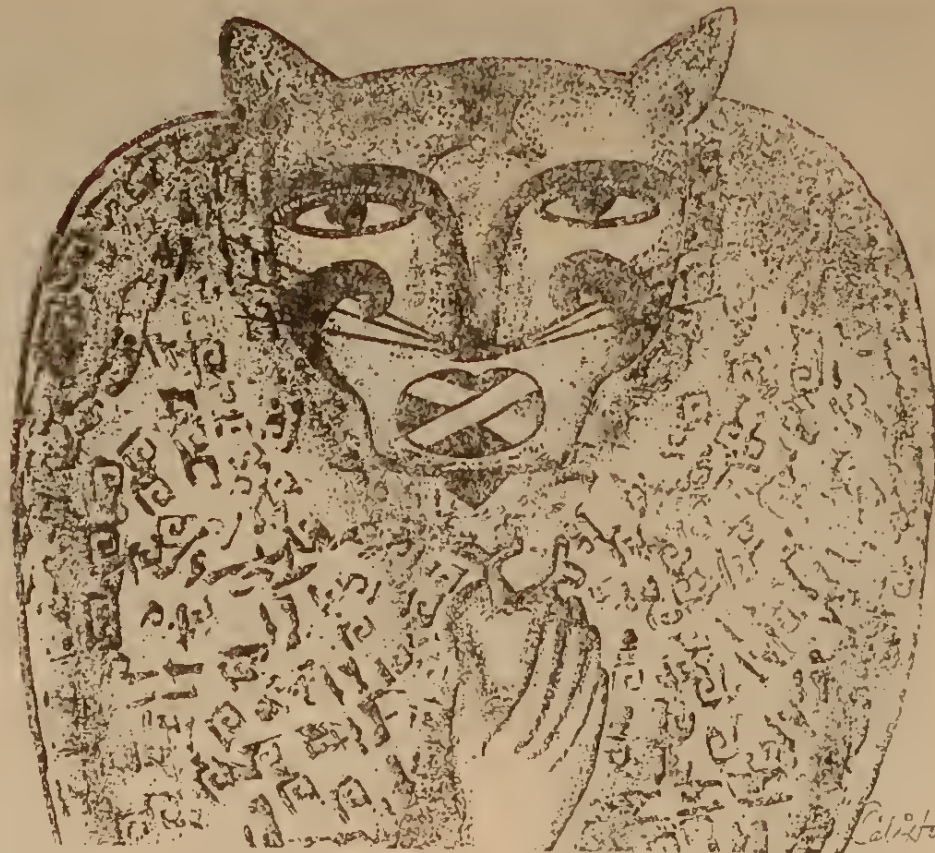
The image of Mexican revolutionary icon Emiliano Zapata, set against a deep red-and-gold background wildly criss-crossed by globs and streaks, stares out from store windows throughout the Mission. The rich color and poetry of this political poster illuminate the heart of the Zapatista uprising in Chiapas.

"The streaks are the explosion that is the event itself. The reddish gold, dawn, a new day." So says the poster's creator, Oaxacan-born silkscreen artist Calixto Robles of Mission Grafica, the printing arm of the Mission Cultural Center.

Robles comes out of a tradition full of rich color and poetry. The fantastic and the mythical are threads that weave through ancient and contemporary Oaxacan culture, and the area is bathed in golden light that transforms itself into the most astonishing colors as the sun rises and sets each day.

In his work for the MCC, Robles brings Oaxacan tradition to a variety of subjects. But his own work deals directly with myth and fantasy and, curiously, wears two faces. The one he exhibits, and by which he's most well-known, is his highly-accomplished silk screen work. The drawing technique is methodical and precise, and the startling electric colors give an ultra-modern look. The other face—gouaches, water colors, acrylics, oils—could be called the shadow to his silk screens. Though this aspect is perhaps more embryonic than the silkscreens, there's a nascent, raw power and a feeling of unrestrained fantasy about to soar and take flight. The main themes of Robles' artwork are pre-Hispanic gods and animals.

"I use the jaguar a lot. It's the guardian of my culture, a symbol of a warrior in pre-Columbian mythology." Robles' jaguars take different stances: stalking restlessly, sitting still, or just staring. At times they seem to suddenly appear out of nowhere, creatures of power against an intense blue horizon. The backgrounds of the pictures are filled with touches that underscore their archetypal nature. Eyes



peer in from the corners, and pre-Hispanic symbols are scattered throughout. Though the animals are mostly pale ochre and gold, sometimes black design patterns, varicolored pre-columbian symbols, and even little fish dot the animal's body. In one picture, a blood-red tongue protrudes. The backgrounds are often lush, pale blue skies with rich green foregrounds.

The seemingly chaotic randomness of forms and symbols in Robles' drawings and paintings lend them the excitement of a dream come alive. Here, the pre-Hispanic world freely intermingles with personal symbols, dream-like elements, and childhood memories. Subconscious, occult, and mystical images predominate. The colors are deep and penetrating, with rich texture.

In one picture, a large, finely-drawn nude woman with long black hair and a strong face holds a multi-colored vase in her hand. She lies next to an ochre-and-gold-colored horse in whose belly swims a mosaic-like fish. Little moons and suns appear here and there. In other paintings, mysterious figures lurk in the shadows or peer in from the sides.

Robles' development has taken an unusual route. While most Oaxacan artists establish themselves first in Oaxaca and expand outward, Robles flowered in San Francisco at the (MCC), and is just now beginning to exhibit in galleries in Oaxaca.

Born in the late 1950's, Robles has been drawing obsessively since age ten. As a teenager, he was inspired by Mexico's pre-Hispanic past and indigenous culture.

"I would sit by myself in the ruins at Monte Alban or Mitla feeling those ancient cultures and the great art that still lives in today's indigenous crafts...I love the markets, the Indian faces, their clothing, the rebozos, the flavors and smells, and especially the colors."

When he was eighteen years old, Robles visited Oaxaca's Taller de Grafica Libre (Free Graphics Workshop) and met the master artist Juan Alcazar, who had a profound effect on him and would later become one of his most significant teachers. Not yet confident in his ability, at first the young artist merely observed.

"It was a small loft near the market, maybe 30x20 feet. We sat at two small tables, drawing, painting, etc. It was an open and informal atmosphere, lots of chatter and beer drinking, filled with imagination. It was not unusual for some of the prominent Mexican artists of the day who lived in Oaxaca, like Francisco Toledo or Rodolfo Morales, to drop by. Alcazar did print work for them, and they would work out details with him while the workshop was in session. We learned a lot listening to these discussions. We shared in the practicalities of masters making art."

In 1985, after a year in San Francisco, Robles discovered the Mission Cultural Center. He loved the atmosphere of camaraderie and of political engagement at the MCC, which he says "felt a little like the atmosphere at the University of Oaxaca." There he met Rene Castro there, who turned out to be another important teacher. He began studying drawing and silkscreen techniques with Castro, soon volunteering services in exchange for classes. After two years, he became Castro's assistant and part of the MCC staff. It was during this period that Robles took the plunge and became dedicated to art as a profession.

Calixto Robles currently exhibits work at the following galleries:

Polanko, 242 Gough St., San Francisco  
Galeria de La Raza/Studio 24, 2857 24th St., San Francisco  
La Mano Mágica, Macedonia Alcala 203, Oaxaca, Mexico

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# THE VIGILS: AMERICAN PIONEERS

by Bob Parks

To five proud brothers and sisters—and a lot of nieces and nephews—Puerto Alegre is a family gathering spot, as well as a popular Mexican restaurant in the Mission. The 25-year-old restaurant contains a touch of family history and contribution everywhere, even in their famous margaritas.

Located between 16th and 17th Streets on Valencia, the restaurant was once a second-hand store, which Idefonso Vigil and his three brothers decided to remodel into a Mexican eatery. They had come to the US from a town called Ayulla in the state of Jalisco, Mexico. The brothers started their restaurant in what was then a very rough neighborhood. Puerto Alegre was one of only two restaurants on the block.

"Every night someone got hurt," Idefonso remembers. "Winos came by in the morning. People told us, 'You are stupid for putting a restaurant there!'"

Today, Idefonso's son manages the business, but when he and his siblings were growing up, they used to stop by after school and on weekends to do chores. In 1972 the family moved into a flat above the restaurant. While they were growing up, the brothers and sisters celebrated birthdays in the restaurant, and recently their 104-year-old grandmother celebrated her century mark there. Now many of the restaurant's patrons celebrate their own birthdays there, with tables full of guests.

Much of Alegre's business comes from regulars. Ralph, a long-time customer and family friend, says that on busy nights he can't even find a seat. Perennial crowd pleasers on the menu are #9 and #14; that is, the Enchilada Chile Relleno and the Steak Burrito. Vegetarian options are also available.

Idefonso runs another Mission restaurant, called Puerto Alegre #2, on 24th and Bryant, which his daughter Amparo describes as more of a Latin-American hang out in the tradition of a "Western Cantina," rather than an emphasis on dining.

Now in their thirties or nearly so, the Vigil



From left to right: Miguel Gonzalez Sr., Ofelia Gonzalez, Maricruz Gonzalez, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Miguel Gonzalez Jr., Carol Vigil, William Vigil, Idefonso Vigil, Lorenzo Vigil, Amparo Vigil. Photo by Eugene Kettner

brothers and sisters believe in staying together, and they still live within a 15-minute radius. They all help the business in one way or another. Amparo does some bookkeeping. Lorenzo helps out in the afternoons, when he

is not working for a beer distributor. Ofelia and Patty also contribute. Willie takes on the largest responsibility, serving as manager, waiter and bartender.

Willie also engineered the recipe for the restaurant's famous margaritas. His strawberry and lime margaritas merit calls from patrons asking for the secret recipe.

"If they ask, I tell them the phone connection is bad and that I can't talk," says Willie. When the family built a bar in the restaurant

and obtained their liquor license two years ago, Willie picked up bartending, learning as he went along.

There is some controversy, though, as to who actually came up with the top-secret margarita recipe. Patty used to make margaritas in her home long before the restaurant served them. In the final analysis, however, Willie invented the particular blend, while Patty and siblings had input into its perfection.

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# SEX, CAFFEINE AND LASAGNA

by A. E. Vail

The latest addition to the Mission's ever-growing cafe scene is the erotically-themed Cafe Venus. A perfect liaison locus between the Mission and Lower Haight, the cafe is situated near the corner of Valencia and Duboce and features kissing booths, a Roman Orgy Pillow Dining Area, and a tantalizing array of amorously-oriented events to complement their Italian/Mediterranean cuisine.

Currently the cafe is a "work-in-progress", as owners Claudia Alvarez and Kevin Ahern will inform you (and they welcome your suggestions). The decor is presently in transition, as they haven't decided exactly what to do with the walls yet (unsure whether they will decorate, or do the cafe/gallery thing). The pillow section is a 6-to-10 seater (depending on the nature of the company) on a raised platform with low glass tables. The two "Cupid's kissing booths" are cozy private wood-paneled booths with tables for two. Separated from the restaurant by a drape, and outfitted with velvet seats, candles and incense. The Cafe also has more conventional seating, for those less amorously inclined.

Claudia, who is originally from Mexico City, is the mastermind behind the erotic theme, decor, recipes and presentation. She has lived in the Bay area for 8 years, 6 of which she has spent in the cafe business. This is her first crack at owning and running her own cafe. Her partner Kevin is an East Bay MFCC whose past business ventures have ranged from a bicycle shop to an inner-city Chicago alternative high school. This is also his first experience with restaurant ownership. Both are enthusiastic about doing something new



Owners Claudia Alvarez and Kevin Ahern in the Roman Orgy Pillow Dining Area.  
Photo by Eugene Kettner

and interesting with their cafe.

The menu includes pastas, focaccia pizettas, Middle Eastern platés, falafel, sandwiches, lasagna, soups, smoothies, and coffee - all at very reasonable prices. Nothing is over \$6.00. I sampled the special of the day, "Il Bacio" - goat cheese, peppers, olives and spices wrapped in lasagna noodles, accompanied by a salad and "mustard art" squiggles along the

perimeter of the plate. It was rich, savory and delicious. Claudia's attention to visual detail brought to mind La Folie, one of San Francisco's finest French restaurants. I had a fresh fruit smoothie for dessert which was extraordinarily smooth and not too sweet - perfect.

Cafe Venus has an ambitious schedule of events running from July through October

with seven thematic evenings a week. Drawing on the Mission's rich and unique art community, Cafe Venus hopes to create a stable multi-media, multi-ethnic, multi-lifestyle arts forum. Friday is "Love and Sex Night" - massage, belly dancing, and featured performances such as erotic poetry, massage lessons, and speakers on erotic/sex subjects (the art of flirting, etc.). Saturday night is "Cultural Mix" with featured performers and open mike - music, poetry, spoken word, theater, etc. - stressing diverse cultural approaches. Sunday is "Artists & Models" night - figure drawing with live models. Monday is "Dinner with Divas" - acid jazz and rare grooves. Tuesday is "Dance Students Open Stage" for flamenco, belly dancing, and tango. Wednesday, "Fascinatin' Rhythms" - featured musicians and open mike. Thursday is "Word Play" with poetry and spoken word (July and August is the poetry slam competition for the National Finals). All events are free and start at 8 pm (with the exception of "Cultural Mix" on Saturdays which starts at 9 pm). Call 864-5402 for details.

So next time you and a sweetie are looking for a good place to rendezvous, keep in mind you have several options: You can be private in a kissing booth, lounge on pillows, attend a cultural event, or just eat good agreeably priced food, all in one spot - Cafe Venus. It's open daily for lunch and dinner and it's well worth turning off the beaten path.

Cafe Venus is located at 208 Valencia between Duboce and 14th St. and is open Sunday through Thursday 11 am to 10 pm and Fridays and Saturdays 11 to 11 pm. Call 864-5402.



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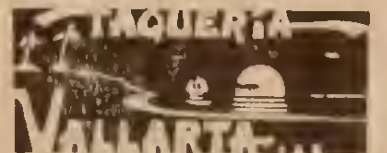
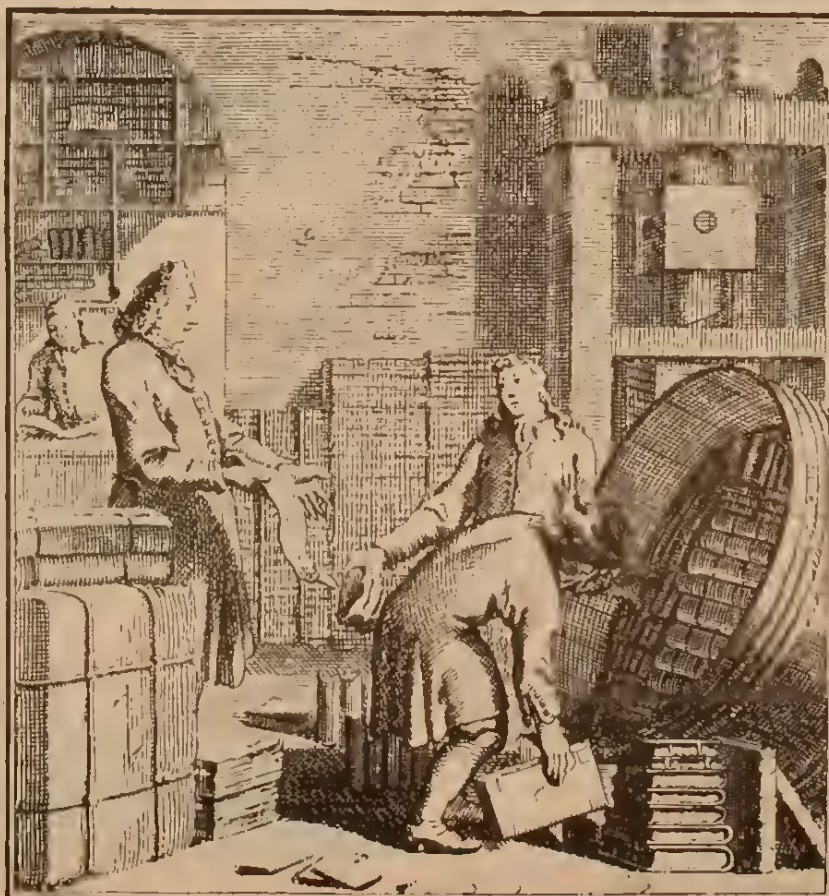
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## CHIROPRACTIC NOTEBOOK

By: Dr. Ross Williams

### How to Live Without Headaches

Everyday over 2 million people suffer from headaches severe enough to interfere with their work and social activities. Headaches result in 250 million lost workdays each year. Headaches are more often than the common cold. Because they are so "common" people just accept headaches as normal. Quite the contrary - if you have a headache that means something isn't normal! Pain is a signal that you have a problem that needs attention. If you suffer from headaches, then you need to know how chiropractic can help you!

First of all. It's not "all in your head". Many are told, "it's just stress", as if you have some sort of mental problem. Yet interestingly the typical headache sufferer shows no signs of emotional or psychological disturbance. Most headache sufferers are normal people who hold successful jobs, attend school or successfully manage a household. Headaches are real - not imagined.

So what causes them? There are many factors, such as eye strain, poor eating habits, toxic fumes, lack of sleep, poor posture or spinal stress and more. Actually there are nearly 100 different kinds of headaches. To keep it simple I will discuss only the two main types: migraine and tension. These two types make up 80% to 90% of all headaches.

Is it a migraine? Migraine headaches involve swelling of the blood vessels in the head. Migraines are usually one sided "throbbing" headaches. Classic migraines are usually preceded by an "aura" of bright light, nausea or vomiting. The pain can be quite severe. Every time your heart pumps, it sends blood through the arteries, stretching them. With each "stretch" you feel pain!

Tension headaches are by far the most

common. People with tension headaches feel a "band-like" pressure around the head. Tenderness, tightness, and stiffness in the muscles behind the head and neck is also common. The pain comes from the "tension", or tight muscles of the head, neck and shoulders. Spinal misalignments in the neck can cause tension in muscles, leading to tension headaches.

Medical treatment of migraine and tension headaches is primarily with drugs. Aspirin and aspirin substitute drugs are given for the "low intensity" headaches, while more powerful compounds, including codeine, are given for the more severe ones. Unfortunately many headache sufferers develop a tolerance to these medications and require larger and larger doses to relieve pain. With the narcotic there is risk of addiction. There are side effects with all medications, even excessive aspirin use. Such as kidney damage, ulcers and other stomach problems. Some of the stronger medications can restrict the arteries in the head and lead to heart attack or stroke. Pain medications can cause drowsiness and impair your ability to drive. The irony is that these medications themselves, which often contain caffeine, can lead to headaches themselves.

According to a leading authority on headaches, Ninan T. Matthew, M.D., of the Houston Headache Clinic, "Most of the time it is difficult to distinguish between the primary headache and one caused by the medication. Analgesic and drug-induced headaches are serious. Professional help is needed to break this cycle".

Chiropractic care is a drug-free alternative that has worked for millions of headache sufferers. Medications treat the symptoms. Chiropractic treats the cause. Adjustments and self-help care, such as proper stretching, reduced caffeine intake, use of ice and hot packs, etc. can often make the difference.

## FORUM A SUCCESS



Forum participants, from left to right, Jennie Rodriguez, President of the 24th Street Merchants Association, Mercedes Sansones of Women's Initiative for Self Employment (W.I.S.E), Monica Teran also of WISE and Raquel Medina of Mission Economic Development Association

The merchant community of the Mission District convened on July 5, at the Mission Cultural Center in S.F., for the First Mission Business Forum. The forum, a collaborative effort between the 24th Street Merchants Association and the Mission Merchants Association, was designed to attract owners & managers of small businesses to network with other merchants, share relevant information about their businesses, and acquaint themselves with the wide variety of small business products & services in the market. The all-day event consisted of 12 mini-workshops (on starting your own business, marketing, business loans, legal aspects in the workplace, advocacy, computers, etc.), a discussion panel, and 25-plus informational tables from private suppliers, vendors and organizations. Accord-

ing to Jennie E. Rodriguez, President of the 24th St. Merchants Association, both associations and the Organizing Committee, which include Mission Merchant's President Al Ribaya, worked very hard putting together this one-of-a-kind event, and were very pleased with the turnout. The group agreed to meet again to plan 1995's Mission Business Forum in hope of making it an annual event. "Businesses are going through very rough times, more so in the Mission, and merchants need to obtain valuable tools and resources, not only to survive, but to make their businesses more efficient and competitive in the future," Rodriguez said. "It's also a matter of changing the community's attitudes and perceptions toward small businesses and economic development issues."

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BY RIGO 94 SIX

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STOOPID SUNUVABITCHES  
WHAT DO YOU THINK DIS  
IS? THE FARWEST?!

WHACK ME IN THE ASS  
, MY BUTT!! YOU GUYS  
HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING  
THE WRONG LAWS:  
LAWS OF THE IMPOSTOR.

LIKE: "GŪDMŌNIN  
MASTER

I DIDN'T  
MEAN TO BE  
DEMANDIN'

I JUST  
MEANT IN  
CASE YOU  
MIGHT

HAVE EXTRA HOUSES  
YOU'RE NOT USING  
AT THE MOMENT"

WHACK ME IN THE BUTT  
FOR WRITING ON YOUR  
PROPERTY! YOU SHOULD  
BE THANKFUL I'M NOT  
BURNING IT DOWN...

PROUD TO BE  
YOUR  
BUD  
SEX

PISS OFF

BUT I'M NO  
FARWEST  
OUTLAW  
RAPING AND  
BURNING  
AND STEALIN.  
I GO BY  
STRICT!  
LAWS.

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OF THE  
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For more information call: Lucy Pineda at Mission Housing Development @ (415) 864-6432.

# MISSION DISTRICT CALENDAR

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 2

**The Rising of the Women Part 4 of 8** - This week's topic is "Origins of Racism and the Leadership of Women of Color". Study group runs every Tuesday evening through August 30. Valencia Hall 523-A Valencia, light supper at 6:30 (\$4 donation), study group at 7. Call 864-1278.

**Pet Loss Support Group** - For grieving pet owners; moderated by Dr. Betty Carmack. S.F. SPCA, 7:30 pm, free. Call 554-3000.

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3

**Doug Dowd is Done** - Final class/lecture on U.S. capitalist development by KPFA radio guy Doug Dowd. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia, 7:30 pm, free.

**Perfection** - Thirty two students from St. John's Educational Thresholds Center present their vision of a perfect school an installation at Centro del Pueblo 474 Valencia, 10 am, free. call 864-5205.

**Wild Mango** - An informal concert and discussion with the seven- woman world music ensemble, Wild Mango. Community Music Center 544 Capp St., 5:30 pm, free. Call 647-6015.

**Arts, Education and Activism** - Discussion group leaders and arts activists Yolanda Lopez and Pearl Ubungen try to sort out the complex issues of education, community organizations and ethnocentrism. Quite a chore. Southern Exposure Gallery 401 Alabama St., 7 pm, \$3-5. Call 863-2141.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

**Everybody Say I Am** - An evening of poetry and prose by black lesbian writers. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia, 7:30 pm, free.

**Love Stories from the Quest** - Dancer and storyteller Deborah Lewis combines autobiographical elements with the Indian epic tale "Draupadhi and her Sari". She is accompanied by classically Indian trained vocalist Dilwara Fletcher. The Marsh 1062 Valencia, 8:30 pm, \$8 -12. RUNS THURSDAY THRU SUNDAY AUGUST 4-13. Call 641-0235

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

**Bluer Than Ever** - Rock on with the Blue Room Boys and one girl every Friday at 7 pm at Radio Valencia 1199 Valencia. Call 826-1199

**Water Closet or the Art of Plumbing** - This black comedy by playwright Dennis Goza consists of 18 brief and awkward encounters in the bathroom of a dysfunctional family each member of which plus a voyeuristic plumber/philosopher speaks in a different rhythm pattern. Runs through Sunday August 7. Noh Space 2840 Mariposa, 8 pm plus a Sunday matinee at 2 pm, \$9. Call 621-7978.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

**The Rosa Marta Zarate World Tour 1994** - The Mission District leg of this 4 continent tour by internationally the renowned Mexican recording artist is not to be missed. Pena Del Sur 2870 A 22nd St., 9:30 pm, \$5. Call 550-1101.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

**Artists, Models and Caffeine** - Practice your figure drawing over a cup of espresso; live modeling sessions begin at 8:30 pm every Sunday at the carnal Cafe Venus 208 Valencia, free. Call 864-5402.

**Walker and Wiggins Sing Songs and**

**Arias** - Soprano Louise Walker and tenor William Wiggins belt out hit tunes by Handel, Beethoven, Werber, Verdi and other gone cats. Community Music Center 544 Capp, 4 pm, \$3-8. Call 647-6015.

**Abandoned Verse** - Neeli Cherkovski and Kaye McDonough read their poetry at Abandoned Planet Books 518 Valencia, 8 pm, free. 861-4695.

**Culture is for Kids** - Culturally diverse story telling, puppetry and clowning for kids 3 and up. The Marsh 1062 Valencia, 2 and 4 pm, \$3 per child, adults free. Call 641-0235. ALSO ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

**They Sing the Body Electric** - Classically trained sopranos Pamela Z and Amy X Neuburg will perform solo pieces for voice processors; Ms Z will use a midi controller called Bodysynth, and Neuburg will employ an Octipad. There will also be some electrifying duets. Radio Valencia, 1199 Valencia, 8:30 pm \$7. Call 826-1199.

## MONDAY, AUGUST 8

**Dinner with Divas** - Live acid Jazz and very rare grooves every Tuesday this month at the sultry Cafe Venus 208 Valencia, 8 pm, free. Call 864-5402.

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

**Quintessentially Queer** - Editors Marci Blackman and Trevor Healey are joined by writers Sparrow 13 Laughingwand, Keith Hennessy and others to celebrate the publication of Beyond Definition - New Writing from Gays and Lesbians of San Francisco. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia, 7:30 pm, free.

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

**Visions of Starhawk** - Independent thinker and author (The Fifth Sacred Thing). Starhawk gives her unique perception of the best and worst of possible futures. Old Wives' Tales 1009 Valencia, 8 pm, \$3-10. Call 821-4675.

**Tales Out of School** - Students from Professor David Rompf's U.C. Berkeley short story extension class read their stuff. Modern times Books 888 Valencia, 7:30 pm, free.

**A Swim in the Alternative Mainstream** - "Alternative Mainstream: Innovative Arts Education in the Schools" a workshop by award winning artist John Henry. Southern Exposure Gallery 401 Alabama, 7 pm, \$3-5. Call 863-2141.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

**Heaven (Is Really a Parking Lot)** - Knee Jerk Dance Company, nine dancers and one actor, examine "human relationships in an eerie cityscape", a situation most Mission residents will find quite familiar. Summertime Dance Project Part 1. Theater Artaud 450 Florida, 8 pm, \$12.50. Call 621-7797. ALSO ON FRIDAY AUGUST 12.

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

**Road Kill in the Ecology Zone** - Spoken word free-fall night by Road Kill Press notables Andy Clausen, Dominique Lowell, Bana Witt, George Tirado, Alan Kaufman and others. Music by Space Masons. Yahoo Ecology Zone 968 Valencia, 8 pm, \$2 (benefits RKP).

**Jazz It Up** - The Graham Connah Group plays Radio Valencia 1199 Valencia , 7 pm. Call 826-1199

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

**Bamboo Women** - This dance theater work



**Exuberance For All Ages** - Colibri performs Latin American music for free at the Mission Branch Library 3359 24th St., noon. Call 695-5090.

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

**Verse Man** - Jack Hirshman reads his poetry at the Abandoned Planet 518 Valencia, 8 pm free. Call 861-4695.

**Piano Man** - In a solo piano recital Kevin Rayhill boogies with Beethoven, hi-de-hos with Haydn and gets movin' to the grovin' with Mendelssohn. Community Music Center 544 Capp St., 3 pm \$3-5. Call 647-6015.

**Soul Man** - The Ina Chalis Opera Ensemble does Faust. Community Music Center 544 Capp, 7 pm, \$3-8. Call 647-6015.

**Jazz People** - Beth Custer and the Will Bernard Ensemble at Radio Valencia 1199 Valencia, 8:30 pm. Call 826-1199. ALSO SUNDAY, AUGUST 21 AT 8:30 PM.

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 16

**Word-for-Word** - Literature comes to life for kids 3 and older at the Mission Branch Library 3359 24th St., 4 pm. Call 695-5090

**Classy Ladies** - "Classical Marxism Today — Working Women As Powerhouses at the Point Of Production" is part six of the eight part study group "The Rising of the Women". Valencia Hall 523-A Valencia, light supper at 6:30 pm (donation \$4) study group at 7. Call 864-1278.

**The Dead Bukowskis** - A birthday bash for the late Charlie B., featuring a dramatization of his story "Woman Wanted", a selection from Hank read by Bukowski's biographer, and the final horror, individuals reading their favorite dead Chuck poems. Abandoned Planet Books 518 Valencia 8 pm, free. Call 861-4695.

**Eroticism in the Round** - Men, Women and those messin' with Mr. In- Between are all welcome to come and read their smut at the erotic reading circle. Good Vibrations 1219 Valencia, 8 pm, free. call 974-8980.

#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17

**Furious Fictions Reading Series** - Tonight's furious readers are Karen Kevorkian, Brenda Kienan, Freeman Ng and Ron Nyren. Small Press Traffic 3599 24th St., 8 pm, \$3. Call 285-8349.

**Eve's Secrets Revealed** - Sexpert Joani Blank leads a popular workshop on women's sexuality for men. Good vibrations 1210 Valencia, 8 pm, \$20 pre-registration required. Call 974-8980.

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 18

**Gender Outlaw** - Kate Borstein who started off as a heterosexual male, did a stint as a an IBM salesperson and scientist and is now a lesbian woman writer actress and performance artist talks about her volatile life. Old Wives' Tales 1009 Valencia, 8 pm \$3-10. Call 821-4675.

**"Aquilegia"** - The seven dancers of Nesting Dolls perform a variety of pieces exploring the nature of time including a piece about bar girls called Warm Beer, Cold Women. Part 3 of the Summertime Dance Project. Theater Artaud 450 Florida, 8 pm, \$12.50. Call 621-7797. ALSO ON AUGUST 18 AT 8 PM.

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

**"Crystal Desert"** - Part 3 of the Summertime Dance Project is an evening-length dance by Liss Fain inspired by her interest in both Antarctica and desert dwelling peoples and designed to completely fill the sixty foot stage space at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida, 8 pm, \$12.50. Call 621-7797 ALSO ON SUNDAY AUGUST 21 AT 8 PM.

**YMCA Flea Market** - Unique treasures for bargain hunters. Mission YMCA 4080 Mission St., 10 Am to 3 pm. Table rental space available for \$10. Call 586-6900.

**Canciones Entre Amigos\ Songs Among Friends** - Ronald Rosario and El Grupo Cotidiano premiere a new repertory of Caribbean songs. Pena Del Sur 2870 22nd St., 9:30 pm, \$5. Call 550-1101.

**Cat-otonia and Other Feline Crochets** - Kate Gamble's monthly seminar on cat behavior disorders. S.F. SPCA 2500 16th St., 10 am and 12:30 pm, free. Call 554-3050.

**Winning Working Women** - "Make Our Votes Count: Now's The Time For A Feminist Labor Party" panel discussion celebrating Women's Rights Day. Valencia Hall 523-A Valencia, blue plate special dinner at 6:30, panel at 7:30, free. Call 864-1278.

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

**The Bad Old Days** - Maxine Clark talks about her short story collection Rattlebone set in the pre-Civil Rights Movement black community of Rattlebone, Kansas in the 1950's. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia, 7:30 pm, free.

**Abandonment Part 4** - Beat curmudgeon Harold Norse and Jeffrey Zable read their poetry at Abandoned Planet Books 518 Valencia, 7 pm, free. Call 861-4695.

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 22

**King Lear** - Shakespeare's tale of sisterhood running amok, includes eye gouging, homeless bashing and ridicule of the mentally ill as we follow the results of a bad judgement call by a long winded but elegant old fart. Performed in real English. Brava! Studio 2180 Bryant St., 8 pm, \$8-12. After the 22nd runs Fri-Sun through September 11. Call 552-7250.

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 23

**Democracy and the Role of Leadership** - this is the 7th topic in an eight week study group entitled "The Rising of the Women". Valencia Hall 523-A Valencia, light supper at 6:30 (donation \$4), study group at 7 pm., Call 864-1278.

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

**Ballroom Babylon** - The Fellow Travelers Performance Group struts it's stuff along with twenty ballroom dancers aided by live video projected on stage. Part 5 of the Summertime Dance Project. Theater Artaud 450 Florida St., 8 pm, \$12.50. Call 621-7797. ALSO FRIDAY AUGUST 26.

**The Great White Hopelessness** - Joan Steinau Lester discusses her book The Future of White Men and Other Diversity Dilemmas, an examination of sex, race, class and the whole darn thing. Old Wives' Tales 1009 Valencia, 8 pm, \$3-10. Call 821-4676.

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

**Art Schmoozer** - Reception for Earthworks an art installation by Anne D'Andrade. Small Press Traffic 3599 24th St., 8 pm, free. Call 285- 8394.

**Versifiers Theatrics** - Four short, comic, surreal plays, one each by T.S. Eliot, W.B. Yeats, Federico Garcia Lorca and Alberto Adellach. Teatro Mision, Mission Cultural Center 2868 Mission St., \$5-10. Call 695-6970 RUNS THROUGH AUGUST 28.

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

**Doggie Dementia** - Animal Behavior Specialist Bob Gutierrez' class for puzzled people with problem pooches. SF SPCA 2500 16th St., 3 pm, free.

**The African American League** - Shark\Rootworkers dance\theater presentation "Barnstormin'" pays tribute to the Negro Baseball Leagues that flourished between the 1920's and early 1950's. Slides of news photos and clippings from that era are included in the performance. Theater Artaud 450 Florida St., 4 and 8 pm, \$12.50. Call 621-7797. Part of the Summertime Dance Project. ALSO ON SUNDAY AUGUST 28 AT 4 & 8.

**Hecho Por Mujeres\ Made By Women** - Songs, poems, theater and testimonials, produced entirely by women. En Espanol. Pena Del Sur 2870 A 22nd St., \$5. Call 550-1101.

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

**Jazz is in Order** - Order of Semblants with Duck Baker. Radio Valencia 1199 Valencia, 8:30 pm. Call 826-1199.

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 29

**Me and the Jews** - a one woman show, work-in-progress by Palestinian- American Emily Shihadeh set in Israel and the U.S. Theater of Yurgen 2840 Mariposa, 8 pm, \$5. Call 621-0507.

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 30

**"Women In Socialist Society"** - Last in the eight-week study group "The Rising of the Women". Valencia Hall 523-A Valencia, light supper served at 6:30 (donation \$4), study

group at 7 pm. Call 864-1278.

#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

**Join the Chorus** - People who have a pleasant singing voice and enjoy hard work amidst a spirit of fun and camaraderie are sought for the S.F. City Chorus. Call 756-SONG for information\appointment.

## ONGOING

**EVERY TUESDAY** - Frolic with powerhouse stretch and workout instructor Carrie Field, Luna Sea 2940 16th St., 5:30, \$3.

**EVERY FRIDAY** - Love and Sex Night at Cafe Venus featuring massage, belly dancers and special performances! 208 Valencia, 9 pm, free. Call 864-5402.

**EVERY SATURDAY** - Walking tours of Mission District murals. Meet at 348 Precita near Folsom, 1:30 pm, \$1-3. Call 285-2287.

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## ROUND WORLD MUSIC REVIEW

by Robert Leaver

### RUMBA FROM CUBA

The sensational folkloric Afro-Cuban drum and dance troupe Los Munequitos de Matanzas will be performing for the second time ever in the Bay Area on August 13 at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Two years ago they gave a stunning performance at Mission High Auditorium to a more-than-ecstatic packed house. At the time it was a breakthrough for Cuban musicians that they were even allowed into the country to perform. Still today it is no easier for Cuban bands to come here - quite simply, they cannot; only a folkloric group can be granted permission to perform under the guise of an educational function. The State Department officially does not allow popular groups to visit because it does not consider them educational which is ironic because so many salsa bands learn their chops and cop their arrangements and style from Cuban bands. Don't miss this show - you can get tickets at Round World Music, and it will sell out.

There will be two more Munequitos CDs released next month by QBADISC to coincide with their tour. "Oye los de Nuevo", recorded in 1970, includes a few cuts featuring some members of the Munequitos in a group called Conjunto Folklorico de Matanza. "Congo Yambumba" is a classic recording from 1983 now available on CD.

Isaac Delgado's "Con Ganas" will be re-released by Qbadisc this month. Isaac was the popular lead singer of the group NG La Banda in Cuba who left to pursue a solo career a

couple years ago. His second outing on his own, "Con Ganas" was recorded in Venezuela with Cuban piano virtuoso, Gonzalo Rubalcaba. Sporting five number-one hits in Cuba, it has also been popular in Colombia, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico. One carnival group here in San Francisco used my personal favorite tune, "Mueve la Cintura," as their Carnival song; featuring a second line on drums, this tune almost sounds like it could be from New Orleans. This CD explores many moods, some more romantic others more upbeat, and at 67 minutes it packs it in.

On the jazz side, the other release from QBADISC is Emiliano Salvador's "Ayer y Hoy." This was recorded just before his untimely death in Havana in 1992. His quartet consists of bass, drums, piano and Cuban Percussion; Pablo Milanes is a featured vocalist on two cuts. Obviously a virtuoso, Salvador leads his quartet between Cuban and jazz phrasing - this is Latin jazz at its best - at once both jazz and Cuban, yet something new. Check it out!

Another crucial Cuban CD of recent release is Cachao's "Master Sessions Volume 1". In his seventies, Cachao is a true living legend as one of the creator's of the mambo in the thirties, composer of hundreds of tunes, and perhaps most importantly, the master of the jam session or "descarga" which he first arranged in the fifties. Anyone who plays Latin music would be truly honored to play with him. These recordings are taken from the concert which was filmed by Andy Garcia, shown here



recently, called "Como Su Ritmo No Hay Dos." As in the film the CD starts at the beginning of Cuban music as the Danzon works into the big band mambo format, breaks things up with a mean percussive rumba, works through some son and builds up to a killer descarga. The musicians playing on here are too numerous to mention they are all virtuosos in their own right. A must!

From Zaire in Africa by way of Paris we have Madilu-System's "Sans commentaire" on Stern's records. A classic sound is evoked here with songs starting out slowly or mid-tempo and only a bit of the fast modern soukous to spice it up. The credits are like a who's who of Zairian music, including at least half a dozen

superb guitarist and singers. Well-arranged and -produced with some pleasingly long songs. Madilu is carrying on the tradition of his mentor the late great Franco of Zaire: this is the closet anyone has come to the classic Franco and OK Jazz sound.

A show that promises to be a serious dance party is the Africa Fete tour due to land at the Fillmore on August 6. Angelique Kidjo will open up for the Antillean supergroup Kassav - known throughout the world for their live show this will be their first performance in San Francisco. This band puts on a well-balanced show playing mostly upbeat dance music incorporating Caribbean, African and American influences. Truly one of the best live shows I've seen.

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# IN THE SHOES OF THE SAILORMAN

by Frank Stauf

I graduated college in 1983 with a degree in English, magna cum laude. Naturally, I became a security guard. I was issued a tan polyester uniform and hat, but was required to provide my own black shoes and belt. Luckily, a few years before, I'd stolen a pair of shiny black patent leather Navy dress shoes from a sailor named Jim. I hadn't really planned to steal them, but...well, here's the story. All true.

I brought Anne to the Boston Greyhound Station with a suitcase in my hand. We had decided to break up, all very civilized. I saw her off and waited for the next San Francisco bus. Fill in the details yourself.

As I was sitting in the back of the idling Americruiser, staring through the tinted window, chain-smoking and trying to figure out what went wrong, a goofy voice spoke to me from on high.

"Yew mahnd if ah sit here?"

I glanced up at the owner of the voice: a towering blonde doofus with a military haircut.

"Uh, sure," I said.

He stowed his duffle bag on the overhead rack and barely managed to squeeze his muscle-bound bulk into the seat. "Ah'm Jim." He stuck his hand out. As I shook that meaty paw with as firm a grip as I could muster, I got a better look at him. His palm-tree patterned shirt was like a polyester tent, and out of this erupted something like a ten pound ham: Jim's head. Big doofy grin on his white lubbery face, he says, "Ah shur am glad to git outta this here taown."

"Oh really? Why is that?"

"Too many damn homerseckshuls! Yew know, ah kin tell a homerseckshul from two mahls off. Wanna know haow? They gots a certain smell" — lowering his voice — "juss lahk with cullerds. It's in ther sweat. So where yew headed to?"

I tried not to sweat, but it was hot. It was the summer of '79 and I was a goddamned sissy, not a homerseckshul, but I doubted the ability of Jim's olfactory instinct to tell the dif-

ference. Couldn't tell him I was going to San Francisco, so I said "Monterey."

"Well yew don't say! Ah'm stationed at Fort Ord mahseff. Looks lahk we're gonna be travellin' buddies!"

It was then I realized there is no God — or, if there is, She has a very sick sense of humor.

Jim was the friendly sort. He refused to shut up. Said he was from Tennessee, enlisted in the navy as soon as he was old enough, got himself lots of 'gook poontang' overseas, had come to Boston on leave because he knew a girl from back home who'd moved there but she turned out not to want anything to do with him after the first two days, so he'd decided to take the bus back to the West Coast and see America. "Musta bin one o' them lez-be-ins, if yew ask me," he said, although I didn't ask him. "What yew gonna dew in Monnercy? Yew thinkin abaout joinin up?"

I said I was thinking about going to college.

He laughed. "Ah never went beyond the seventh grade mahseff. An yew know what? Ah'm damn proud of it. The Navy taught me more'n ah'da ever larned in any damn hah skool. But ah giss it takes all kahnds."

I tried to sleep as much as possible on the trip. Most of the time I was only pretending to be asleep, while Jim struck up conversations with the other passengers. Most of them liked Jim just fine. One old trailer park matron talked to him for hours about flying saucers and E.S.P.. "Ah know ah'm psychical," Jim said, "becuz one tahm ah dreamed I wanted a glass o' milk 'n' couldn' git one, an shur enuf, the caow'd gone ahead an dahd overnaht!"

In a little town in Wyoming, a teenage kid got on the bus — long hair, no shirt, no luggage. He and Jim became fast friends. Seems the kid had left his home town in a hurry. Let himself get picked up by some old fruit in a bar with the intention of robbing him, and in the course of the robbery had beaten the old man so badly that he might have killed him. "The cops ain't gonna try that hard to find me," he said, "but I thought I'd best git outta town for a while anyway."

I leaned my head against the window, one



eye open to the passing scenery of this great land of ours. The purple mountains' majesty, the fruited plains, etc.

By way of confession: when I found out the kid had pot, I smoked a joint with him and Jim at a rest stop in Utah. Back on the bus, I was able to sleep for a good four hours.

When I woke up, the shirtless murderer was gone and Jim was trying to make friends with the pretty female half of a young blonde couple who had taken the seat in front of ours. They were Swedish tourists, obviously dismayed by Jim's attentions, laughing nervously at his crude jokes. After a while they pretended to be asleep too. Jim said to me, referring to the girl, "Naow wouldn' yew lahk to hev that sitin on yer face?"

I smiled weakly, like a Jew caught in the middle of a Nuremburg rally. Jim's latent leg kept pressing against mine and I was thinking: of course I'd like a Swedish beauty sitting on my face, especially now that Anne was gone, but there are things like taste and grace you suddenly appreciate when guys like Jim show up.

In truly tasteless, graceless Stateline, Nevada, where the 40-cubit cowboy winks and waves and chews his neon cigarette, we had a 30 minute rest stop. Jim got off to play the slots... I had a roast beef sandwich and walked around the casino for a while before getting back on the bus. The other passengers all started boarding too, but not Jim. He must be

winning, I thought. The engine started up. "Everybody here?" the driver called. The Swedish couple glanced behind them; I gave a wink and a nod and we kept our mouths shut.

Within minutes we were rolling down the desert highway, and the stars had never looked so beautiful to me. Perhaps there is a God! I almost wept at the beauty of the desert night, and at the even greater beauty of the empty blue seat beside me, and I laughed out loud imagining the look of slack disbelief of Jim's moronic face when he discovered he was stranded.

Once the bus had reached its final destination, and the driver and the other passengers had disembarked, I went through Jim's duffle bag. More polyester shirts and pants, a shaving kit, a camera, black patent leather Navy dress shoes. I took the camera and the shoes.

A year later I was back with Anne and we were both enrolled in college. I graduated in 1983 with a degree in English, magna cum laude. Naturally, I became a security guard. \$3.65 an hour. I was issued a tan polyester uniform but was required to provide my own black shoes.

How had I known that I would need Jim's shoes someday? Perhaps I'm psychical too. Yes, that must be it. Who can say what mysterious and amazing powers lie hidden in the human mind?



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